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77

Your Monthly Funny Animal Anthology!

FURRLOUGH



Elin's Soapbox

by Elin Winkler

Well, we're back at home from **ConFurence 10** in California, and the whirlwind tour of San Jose, San Francisco and San Diego! The plus side of the trip for me? Getting to visit so many Yaohans and the giant Sanrio store in San Francisco! The minus side? Not realizing there was a Sephora cosmetics emporium in San Francisco, and not having enough time to visit it! (I was also there with a bunch of guys who were more than patient as I perused every single item in the Sanrio store— if we had visited Sephora, I would have been lost for hours and they would have died of boredom.) Visiting San Francisco's Chinatown was also fun, even if we did act like ugly American tourists and eat our fresh pork buns while standing in the street. I'm hoping we can get more time off so we can visit San Francisco again so we can see more sights- and I want a crack at Sephora!

Sadly, taking time off is a difficult task for us, so we have to cram vacation time in whenever we do a convention. Taking a small break from work really helps to recharge the batteries, which of course improves our overall performance! In the last editorial I wrote, I covered the first two conventions of the season that we'd be attending- this time I'll cover the next two.

We'll be in San Diego again on August 12-15, 1999, at the San Diego Convention Center for Comicon International. We'll be set up at our own booth, and will be selling comics, chatting with fans and of course, Pat will be doing portfolio reviews. Just about every comics professional you could ever hope to meet will be in attendance at the convention, including many of our own Radio artists: **Will Allison, Michael Vega, Loran Gayton, Dean Hsieh, Terrie Smith, Joe Rosales**, and many more! (And those are just the folks we know for sure who will be there- there'll probably be more!) Comicon International is an amazing event and anybody who is a fan of comics should probably go at least once in their life!

Our next convention will be Mephit Furmeet 3 in Memphis, Tennessee at the Holiday Inn Memphis East. It's on September 3-6, 1999 and we're really looking forward to the con, since we're guests on honor! (Wow!) **Joe Rosales** is the artist guest of honor and there are no doubt going to be many more funny animal artists and writers in attendance, since Mephit is from all accounts a friendly, relaxed convention. Personally, I'm looking forward to visiting Graceland and viewing the tackiest place in America for myself.

We'll be printing more convention announcements as we solidify the details! Watch this space for further information- and for pictures of the cons we have attended! We'll see you at the cons!



HYPER SPACE

Last month in this column we introduced Mangaphile! If you were snoozing, shame on you! Mangaphile is our brand-new anthology with a heady mix of American manga, interviews with manga creators like **Adam Warren** and **Kenichi Sonoda**, and fantastic tutorials and tips from industry pros on creating comics! If you're into manga at all, you're going to love this mag! I'm personally penning two of the my most requested tutorials -- 1) How to color covers and comics in Photoshop and 2) How to use computers to zip-a-tone comic pages. Even if you don't draw a lick, this is going to make some fascinating reading!

But let's not forget the main attraction --the comics! We've got some of the best American Manga creators lined up! In the first issue, **Will Allison** lands a quick one-two punch with his boxing manga called "**The Loser**"! Then, **Dean Hsieh** kicks off his eerie psychological thriller called "**The Server**"! Then, as if that weren't enough, we tempt fate with **Adam Warren**, asking him the questions *you wouldn't dare* in a can't-miss interview! But we're not just publishing industry pros! This is your mag! We here at Radio know there are tons of fans out there drawing their little hearts out but have no way to break into the industry! Personally, I feel publishing companies have been neglecting this niche, and the industry is weaker for it. Manga is becoming a huge force in the American comics market. **Mangaphile** is your forum to contribute!

The Hot Spot

cool stuff we like



The stuff we were listening to, reading or playing with when we put these comics together!

Fave Video Games

Bust a Move 2 (PSX import)

Fave Toy

Landspeeder Pool Toy

Fave Books

Absolute Magnitude edited by Warren Lapine and Stephen Page

Fave CD

The Spirit of Wandjina (Thanks Kathy!)

Radio Comix Playlist

Various	
089	Furlough #77
Passing on the Matrix of leadership!	
Allison	
090	Trouble Express #4
The series finale!	
Gayton and Vega	
091	Morning Glory #5
Morning Glory, Maximize!	
Various	
092	Milk #11
More than meets the eye! Adults only!	

RADIO COMIX SKETCHBOOK



Manga Master Adam Warren does the honors for the cover of Mangaphile #1! Ask your retailer for this one!

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MISTY THE MOUSE: FOOD

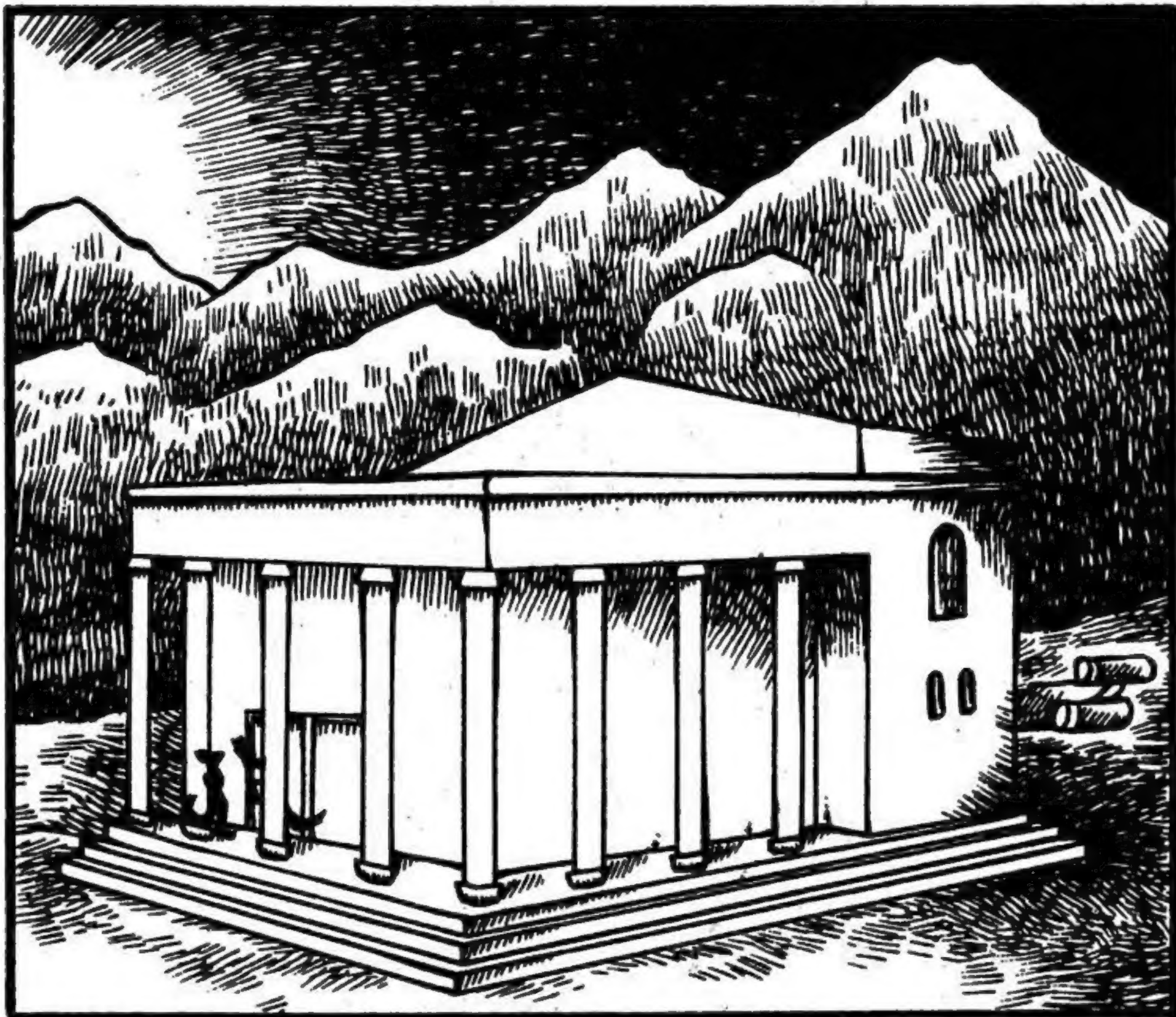
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29



WOULD YOU PLEASE GET OFF YOUR BUTT AND HELP ME CLEAN THIS PLACE UP? THE CONTEST STARTS TODAY. WE MIGHT HAVE GUESTS SOON AND LOOK AT THIS PLACE!

WHY BOTHER? YOU KNOW NO ONE TRAINS ANYMORE.



DRAGON HEAVEN USED TO BE A QUEST FOR MENTAL, PHYSICAL, AND SPIRITUAL STRENGTHENING. NOW, IT'S JUST A FREE FOR ALL. WE HAVEN'T HAD STUDENTS FOR FIVE CONTESTS. NOW, PUT DOWN THAT BROOM AND HELP ME WATCH THIS BEAUTIFUL SUNRISE.

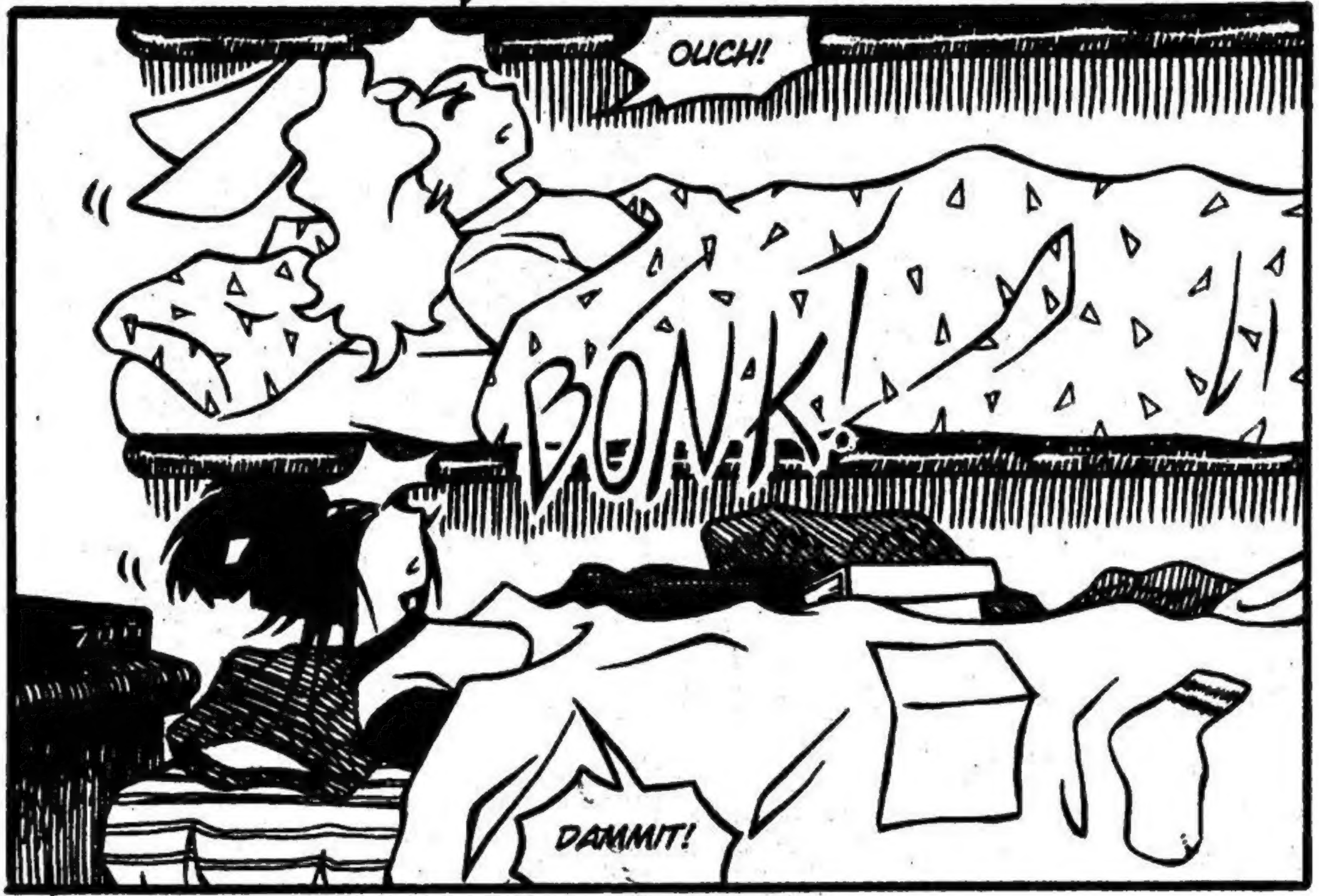


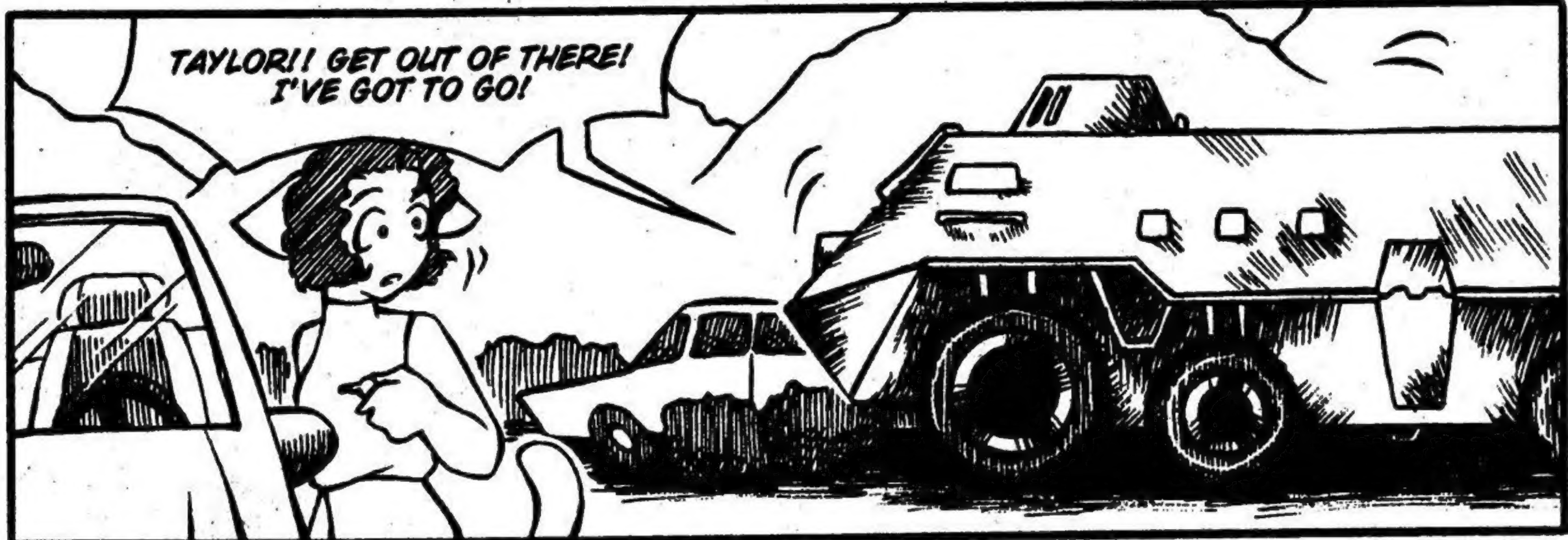
YUP, IT'S BEAUTIFUL. NOW WILL YOU HELP ME CLEAN?



MAYBE.

BONK!





UM, IS SHE STILL DRUNK?

Sanvi

SIGH, I WISH...

GIVEN ANY THOUGHT
TO YOUR STRATEGY?

HMM?

YOU KNOW, HOW YOU'RE
GOING TO WIN THIS THING?

Sanvi

5-mart

NOT REALLY. WHAT'S YOURS?

SIMPLE...

->AHEM<-

I'M JUST GOING TO KICK
EVERYONE ELSE'S BUTTS!!
HEH HEH!

5-mart

5-

IF YOU WANT MY ADVICE, GO TO ALL
THE TRAINING GROUND 'TEMPLES'.

TEMPLES?

YEAH. YOU HAVE READ
YOUR RULE BOOK RIGHT?

WELL, I UH...

BY THE RULES, WHEN
YOU'RE TRAINING AT
THESE PLACES OTHER
COMPETITORS CAN'T
CHALLENGE YOU. IT'S
LIKE SACRED GROUND OR
SOMETHING. BESIDES, NO
OFFENSE, BUT YOU TWO
NEED THE TRAINING.
YOU'VE SEEN THE OTHER
COMPETITORS. YOU TWO
WON'T LAST TWO DAYS
AND I THINK YOU KNOW
IT.

SO LITTLE CONFIDENCE. I'M SURE WE COULD LAST THREE, MAYBE THREE AND A HALF DAYS. WHAT DO YOU CARE ANYWAY? YOU'D HAVE TO BEAT US TO WIN ANYWAY.



BEATING YOU TWO WOULD BE TOO EASY. I'M NOT BRAGGING. IT'S THE SIMPLE TRUTH. NEITHER ONE OF YOU HAS A CHANCE AGAINST ME.

SURE, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO TAKE OUT SOME OF THESE COMPETITORS BUT YOU DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST MOST OF THEM AND YOU NEVER KNOW WHO WILL CHALLENGE YOU FIRST. IF I OR ONE OF THEM CHALLENGED YOU TODAY YOU'D BE GOING HOME TONIGHT.



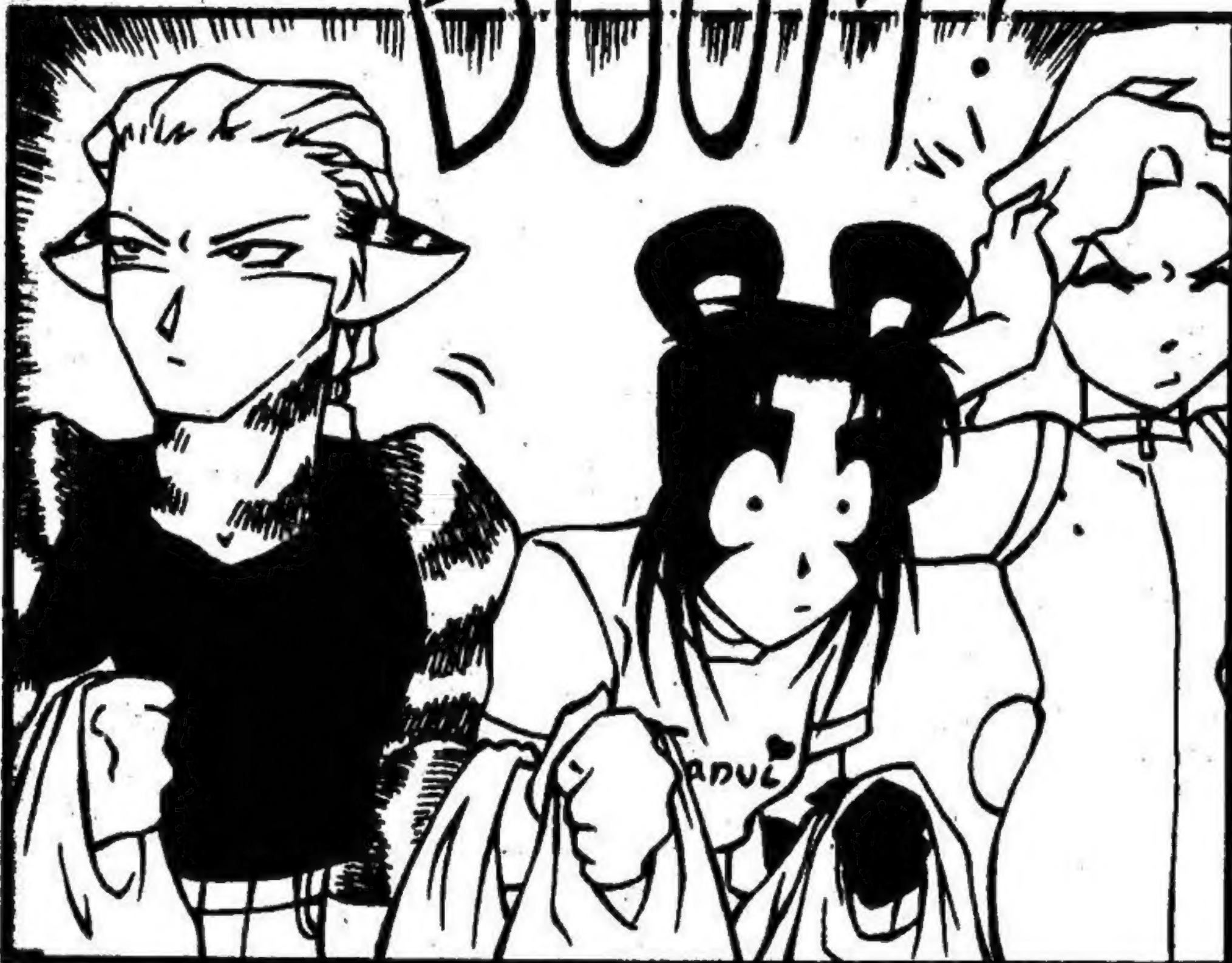
I LIKE YOU TWO. AND WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO YOU AND ME I WANT YOU TO HAVE A CHANCE. IF I CAN'T WIN THEN BETTER IT BE YOU TWO THAN THE REST OF THESE JERKS.

OF COURSE IT WON'T HAPPEN. I'LL KICK YOUR BUTTS TOO EVENTUALLY.



WE'LL JUST SEE ABOUT THAT.

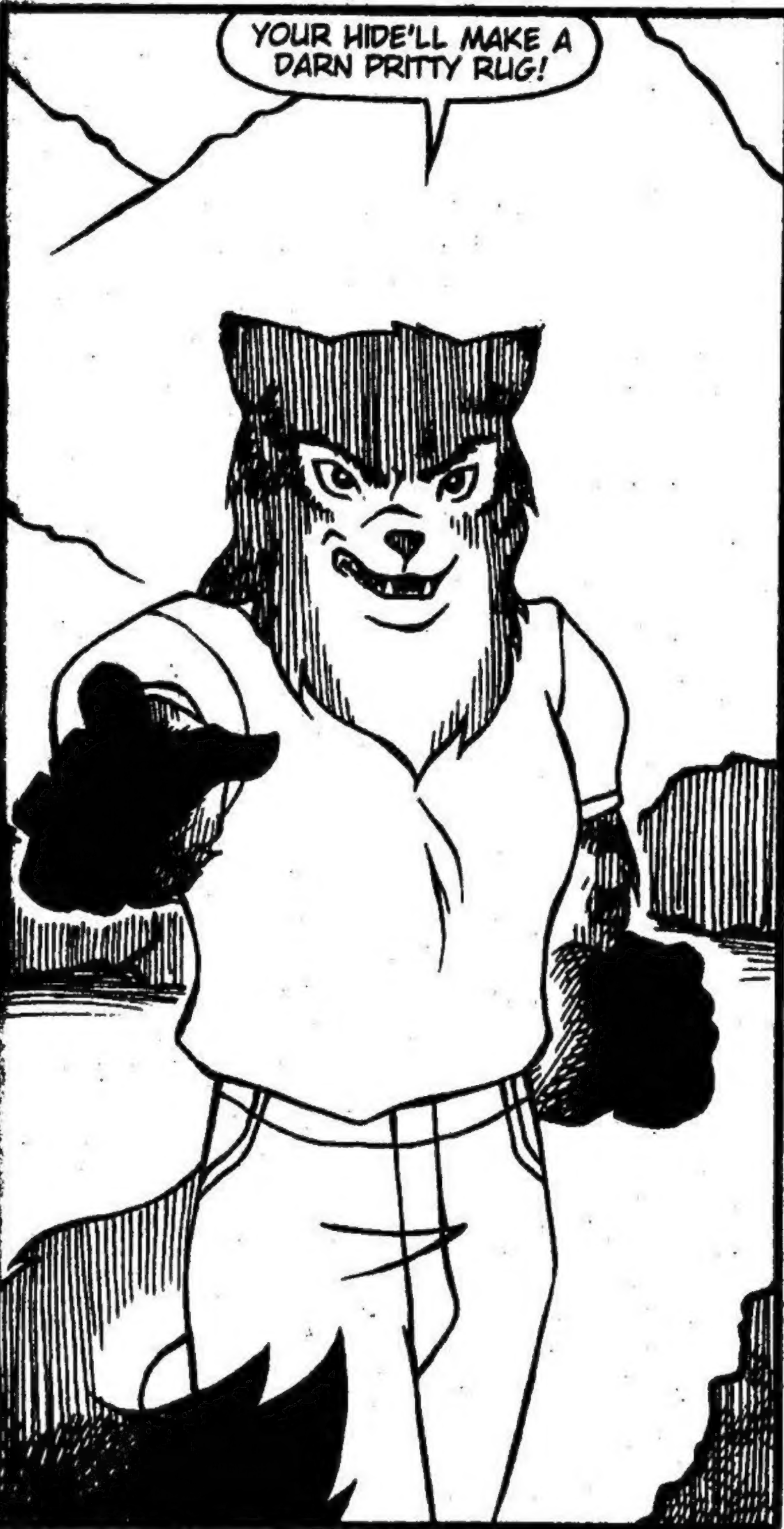
BOOM!



YUP, IT'S THAT TIME. DRAGON HEAVEN HAS STARTED. LET'S GET YOU TWO BACK TO YOUR ATV SO YOU CAN GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.

HEY KITTY-CAT!

YOUR HIDE'LL MAKE A DARN PRITTY RUG!



THAT A CHALLENGE?

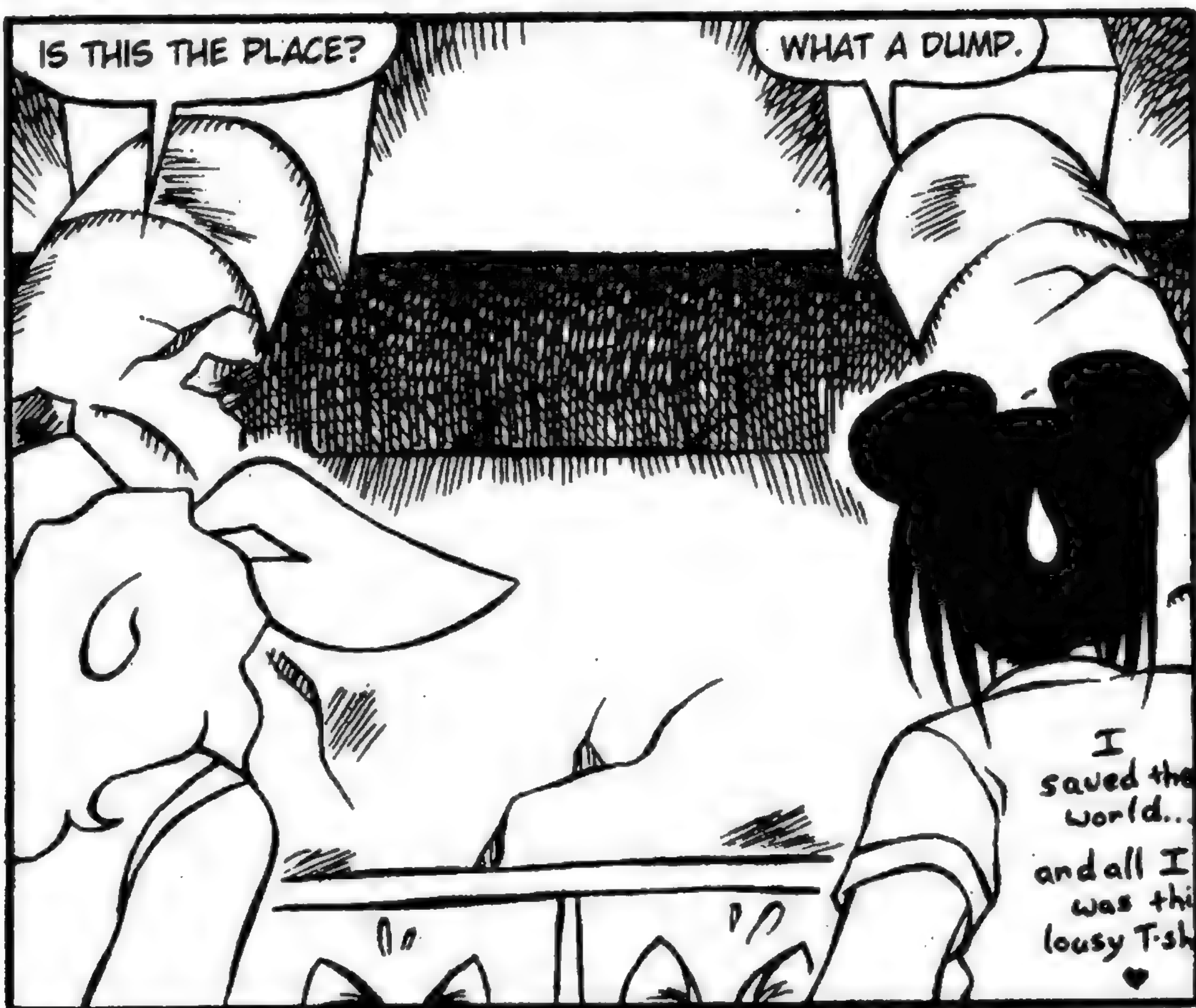
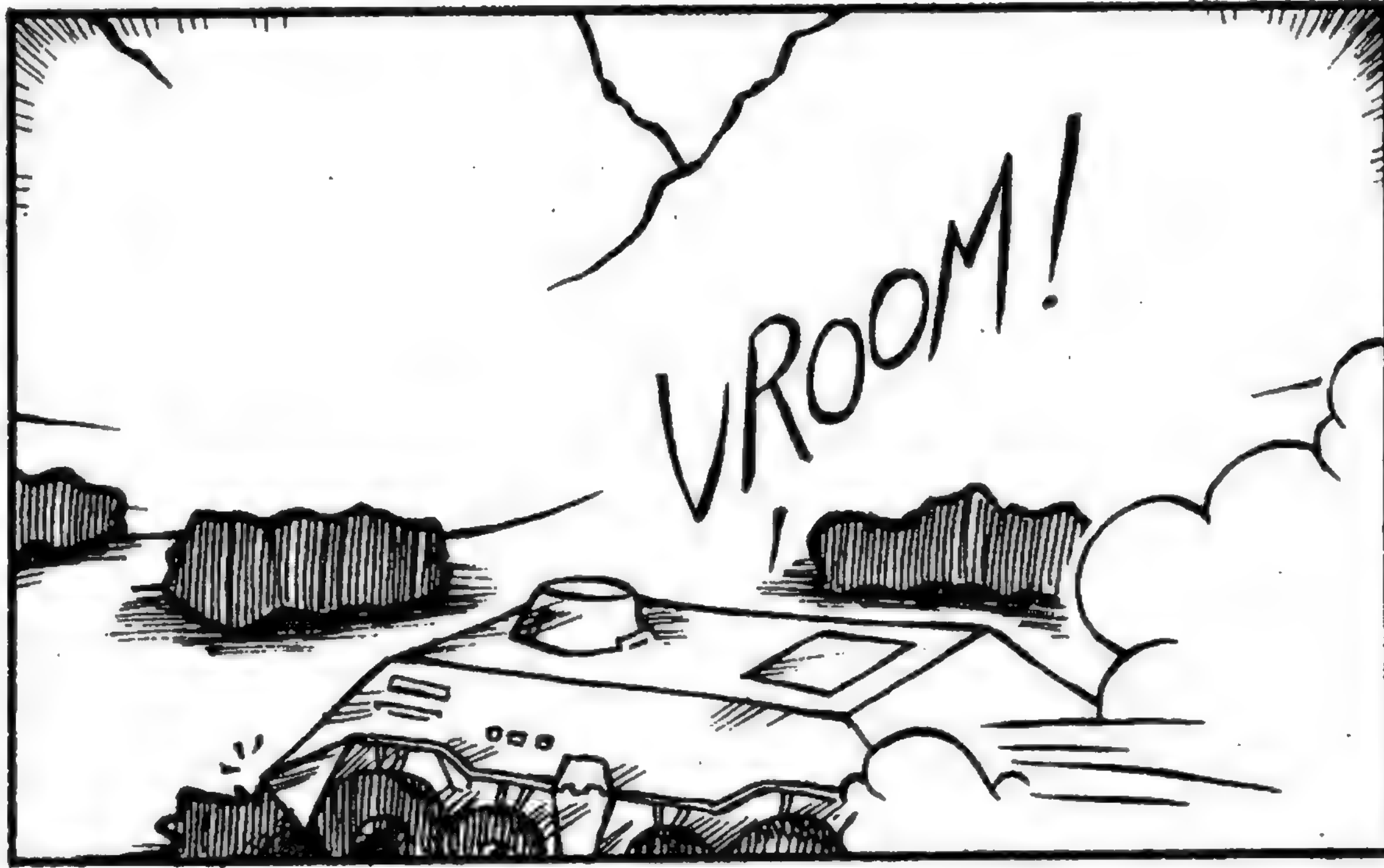
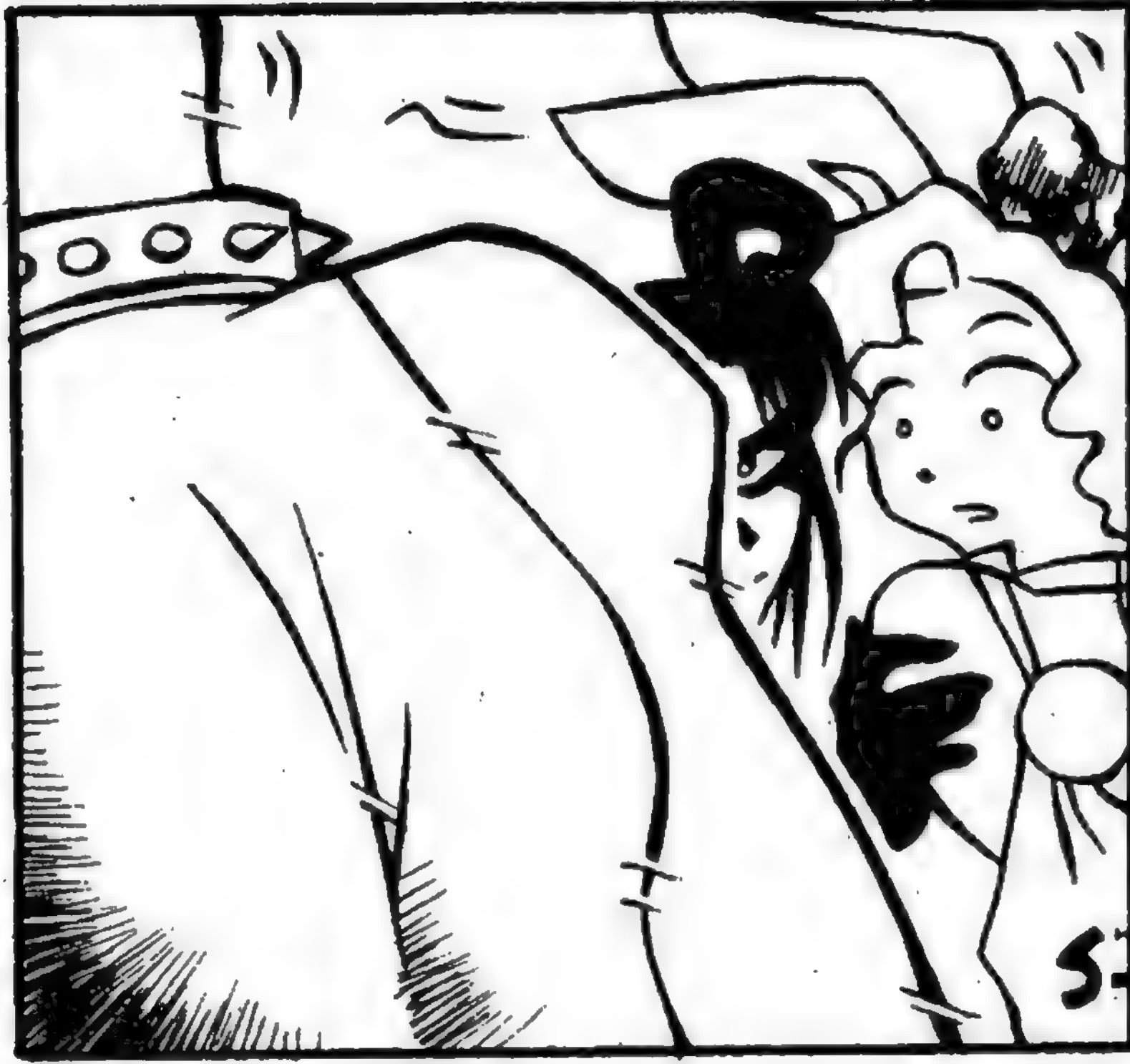


HELL, YEAH!









AFTERSHOCKS

story & art Chris Whalen ©98

ONE LATE WINTER NIGHT, A MUGGER FOLLOWED JEFF HOME AND ATTACKED HIM IN HIS DRIVEWAY. IN HIS TERROR, JEFF BELIEVED HE WAS FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE.

THE POLICE APPREHENDED THE CRIMINAL A SHORT TIME LATER HIDING IN A CORNFIELD, PLACING HIM BEHIND BARS AND RETURNING JEFF'S WALLET.

BUT JEFF HAD AN UNSETTLING DREAM OF HIS MUGGER~

LEARNING OVER IN THE DARKNESS OF THE BEDROOM, READY TO MAIM AND KILL!

AHHH!
HELP!

GET AWAY FROM ME!

GRR!

HONEY!
WHAT'S WRONG?

I'M OKAY-
IT WAS
JUST A BAD
DREAM.
I'M SORRY.

A WEEK LATER,
HE DREAMT
AGAIN OF THE CAT.
THIS TIME THE MUGGER
STOOD OFF TO THE SIDE
AND FURTHER AWAY
IN THE ROOM, BUT
STILL OMINOUS.

IN THE THIRD DREAM,
THE MUGGER APPEARED
AT THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE ROOM, SMALL AND
NO LONGER THREATENING.
THIS WAS THE LAST
DREAM JEFF HAD OF HIM.

ON HER WAY TO VISIT A FRIEND, MARY
EXITED ONTO A RAMP AND WAS FORCED
TO A STOP BEHIND A MINIVAN. AN
INATTENTIVE TRUCK DRIVER SLAMMED
INTO HER CAR, CRUMBLING IT LIKE TIN FOIL.

THE ACCIDENT LEFT MARY WITH
SEVERE INJURIES TAKING NEARLY
A YEAR TO RECOVER FROM.

FOR A LONG TIME
AFTERWARDS SHE
COULD NOT DRIVE
A CAR, BECAUSE EVERY
TIME SHE STEPPED
INTO A CAR~

AND CAUGHT THE
REARVIEW MIRROR
IN THE CORNER
OF HER EYE~

SHE SAW THE
TRUCK,
BARRELLING DOWN
BEHIND HER~

END

THIS IS PROBABLY MORE ACCURATELY DESCRIBED AS AN EPILOGUE RATHER THAN A CONCLUSION. AFTER SNEAKING INTO TAIWANESE TWIST'S LAIR ON AN ESPIONAGE MISSION, WE, CHINA KATE AND HER FRISCO FORCE, HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND IMPRISONED. IN A DESPERATE BREAK FOR FREEDOM I, KAISER "DOUGHBOY" MASQUE, HAD PICKED A FIGHT WITH A C-4 CLONE. BEING KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS BY THE LITERAL SHORT FUSE OF MY VICTIM, MY FELLOW TEAMMATES ASKARI AND UHLAN HAD MANAGED TO GET KATE, THE ALIEN, AND MYSELF TO FREEDOM.



DOUGHBOY--

AGAIN ALL DIALOGUE HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD IN THE INTEREST OF ACCURACY--KAISER



KAISER--



HEY THERE, YOU HAD US WORRIED FOR A WHILE.



WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I?

ALL I REMEMBER WAS SCREAMING FOR THE C-4 CLONE TO STOP THE COUNTDOWN AND THEN I DRAW A BLANK

WELL TO BE BLUNT, YOU FOOLISHLY LOST YOUR HAND IN THAT SKIRMISH, BUT YOU ARE NOW RECUPERATING IN THE HOSPITAL AT THE WORLD'S SPACE FLEET.

DON'T WORRY WE'VE MANAGED TO SAVE THE HAND. IT MAY NOT BE WHAT YOU'RE USED TO BUT YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE ANYTHING AT ALL.



DID YOU AND UHLAN DO THE SURGERY?

NO, ME AND BRAD.

BRAD?

HE'S AN INTERESTING GUY. I THINK YOU'D LIKE HIM... EVEN THOUGH HE'S AN ALIEN.

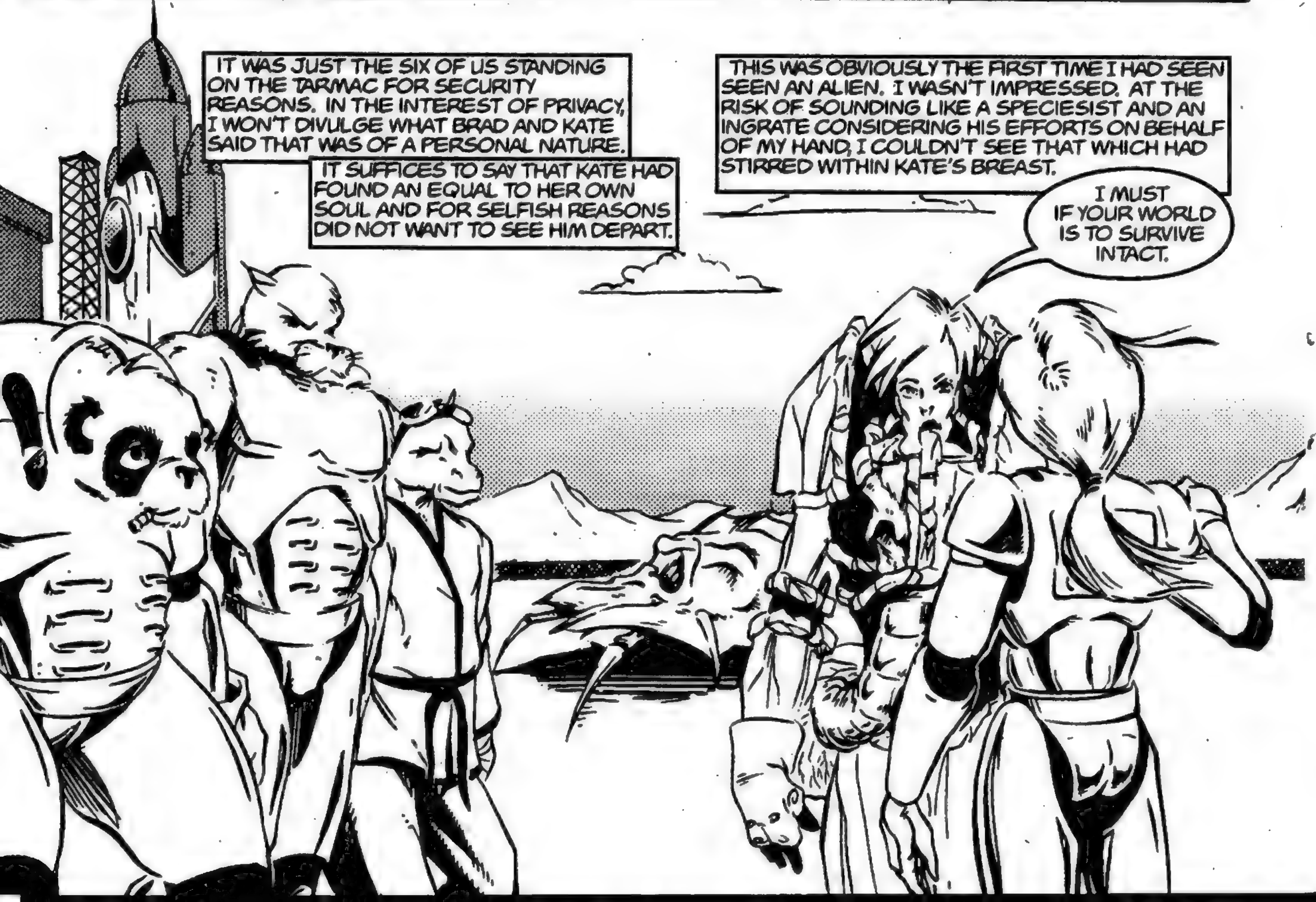
OFF-WORLD, I TAKE IT.

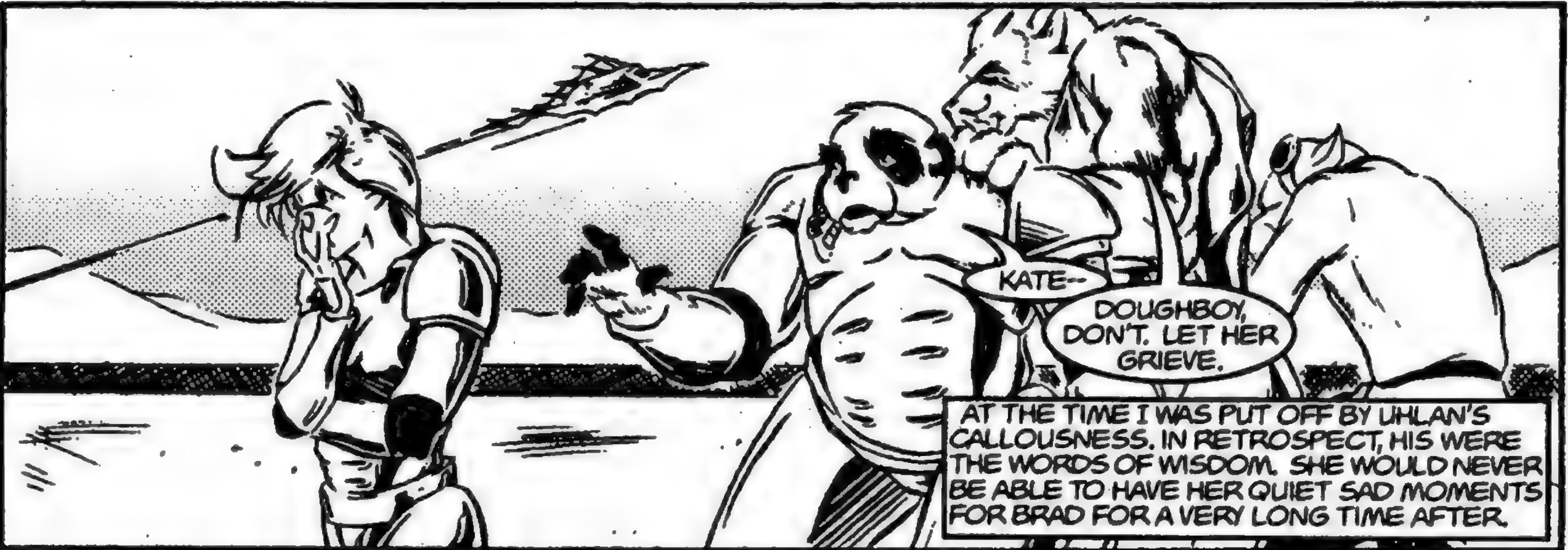
YOU'RE CALM ABOUT THAT.

WORRIED ABOUT THE HAND...

JUMPIN' JEHOSEPHAT!

NEEDLESS TO SAY THIS HAS BEEN EDITED FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FRISCO FORCE JUNIOR BRIGADE--KAISER







ARE YOU
POTHITIVE THAT
THE PLAN WILL
WORK?



OF COURSE.
YOU HAVE MY SHIP
CARRYING THE
MUTAGEN--

--AND MY
PROGRAMMED
REPLICANT
ON IT.

HUMANS MAY BE
MORE ADVANCED THAN
YOU ANIMALS, BUT THEY ARE
STILL AT SUB-LIGHT SPEED.
THEY'LL NEVER REACH
HERE.

THE WORLD
IS OURS,
PARTNER.



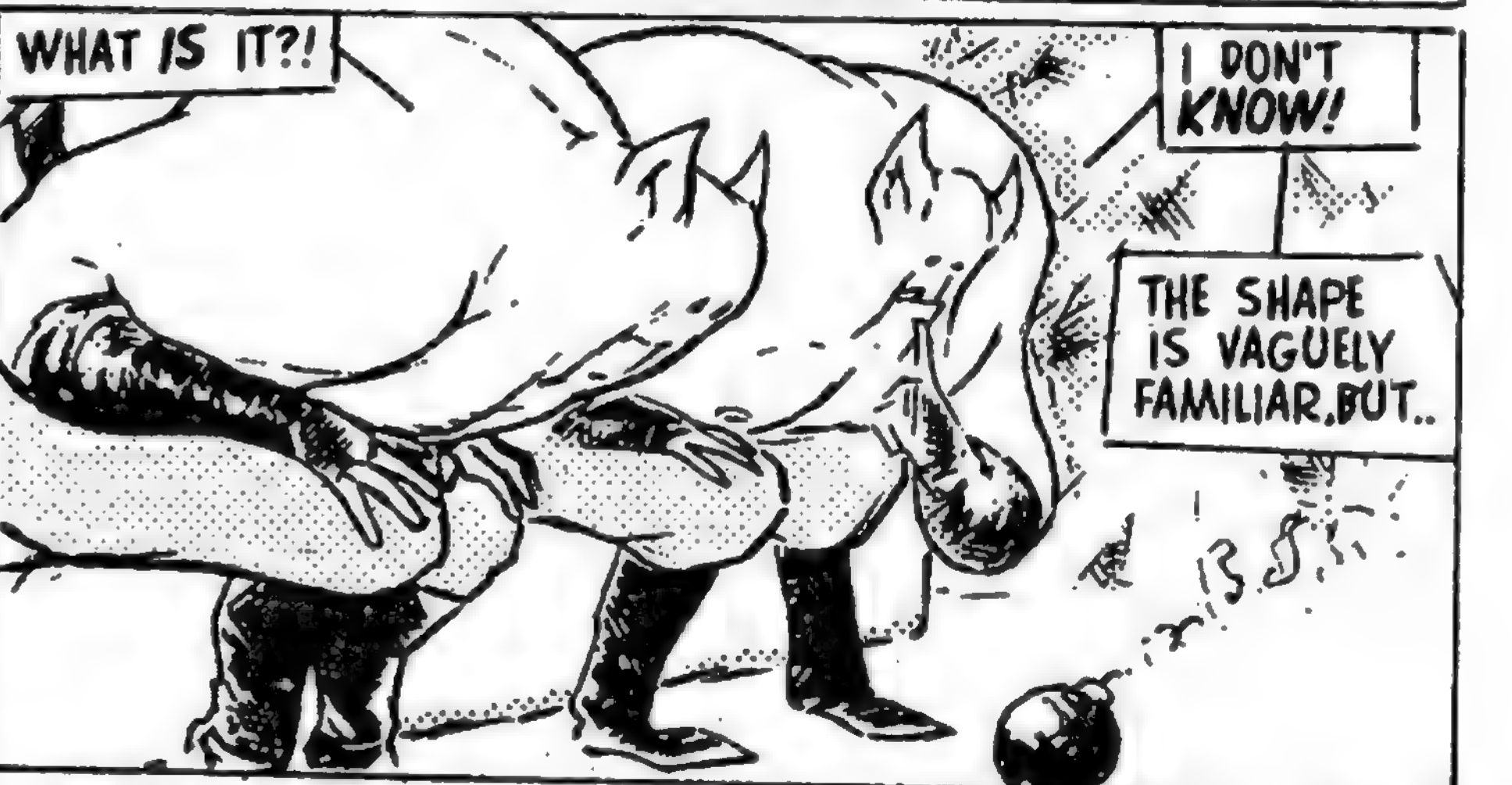
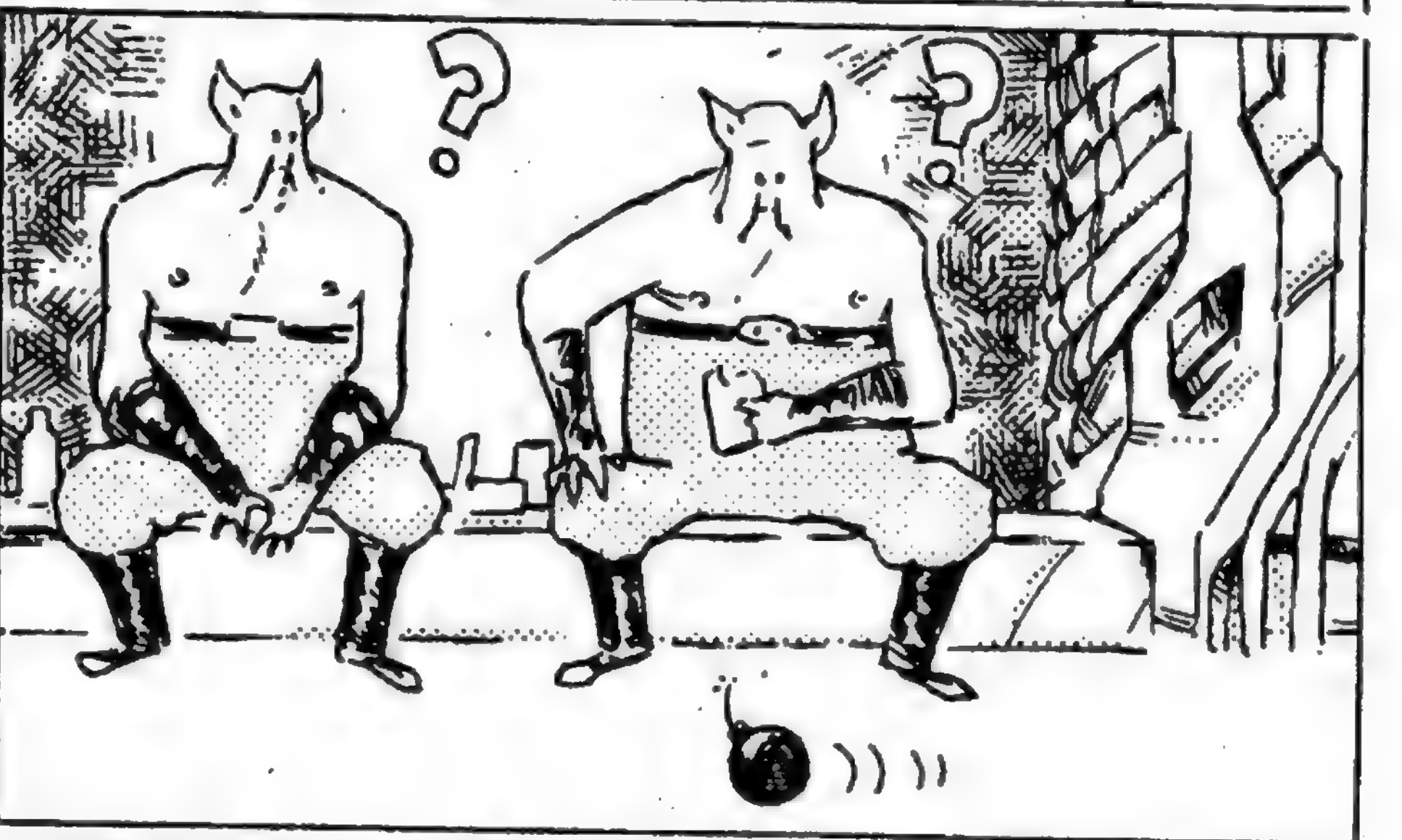
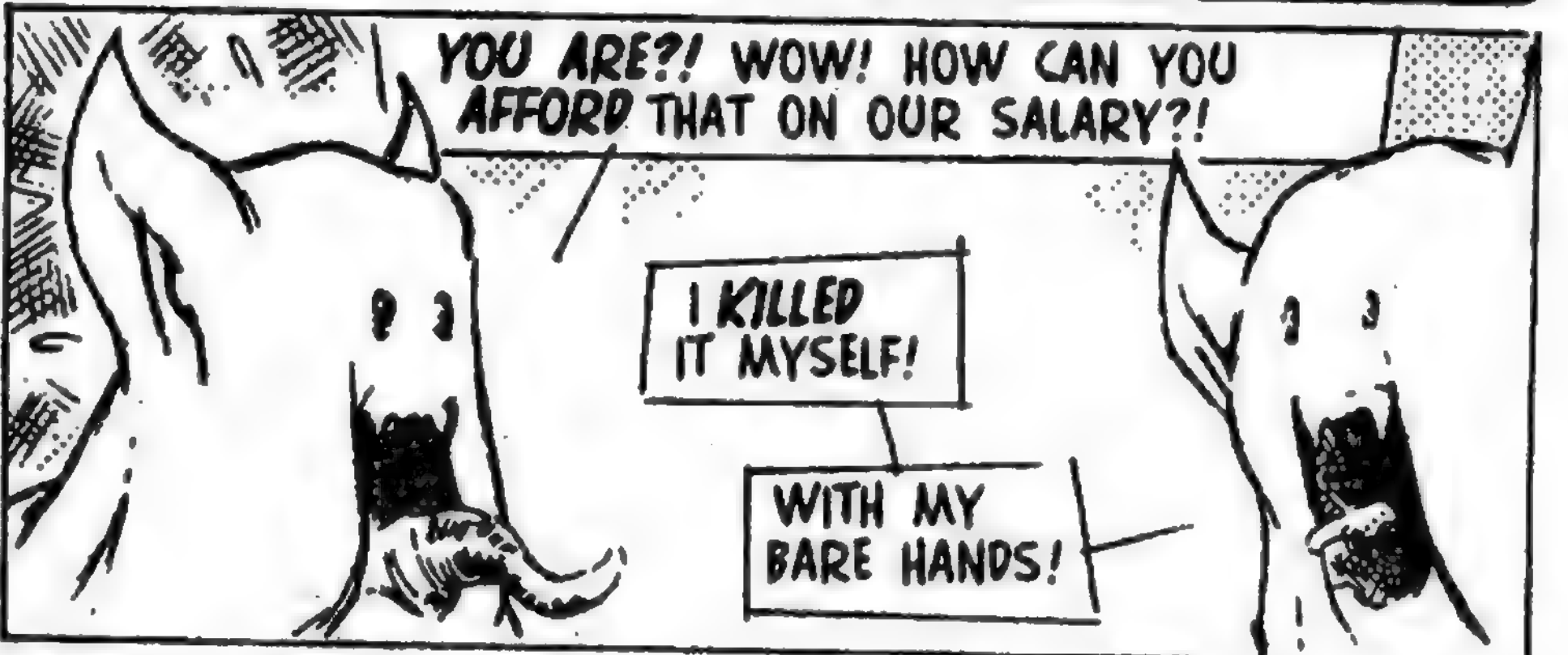
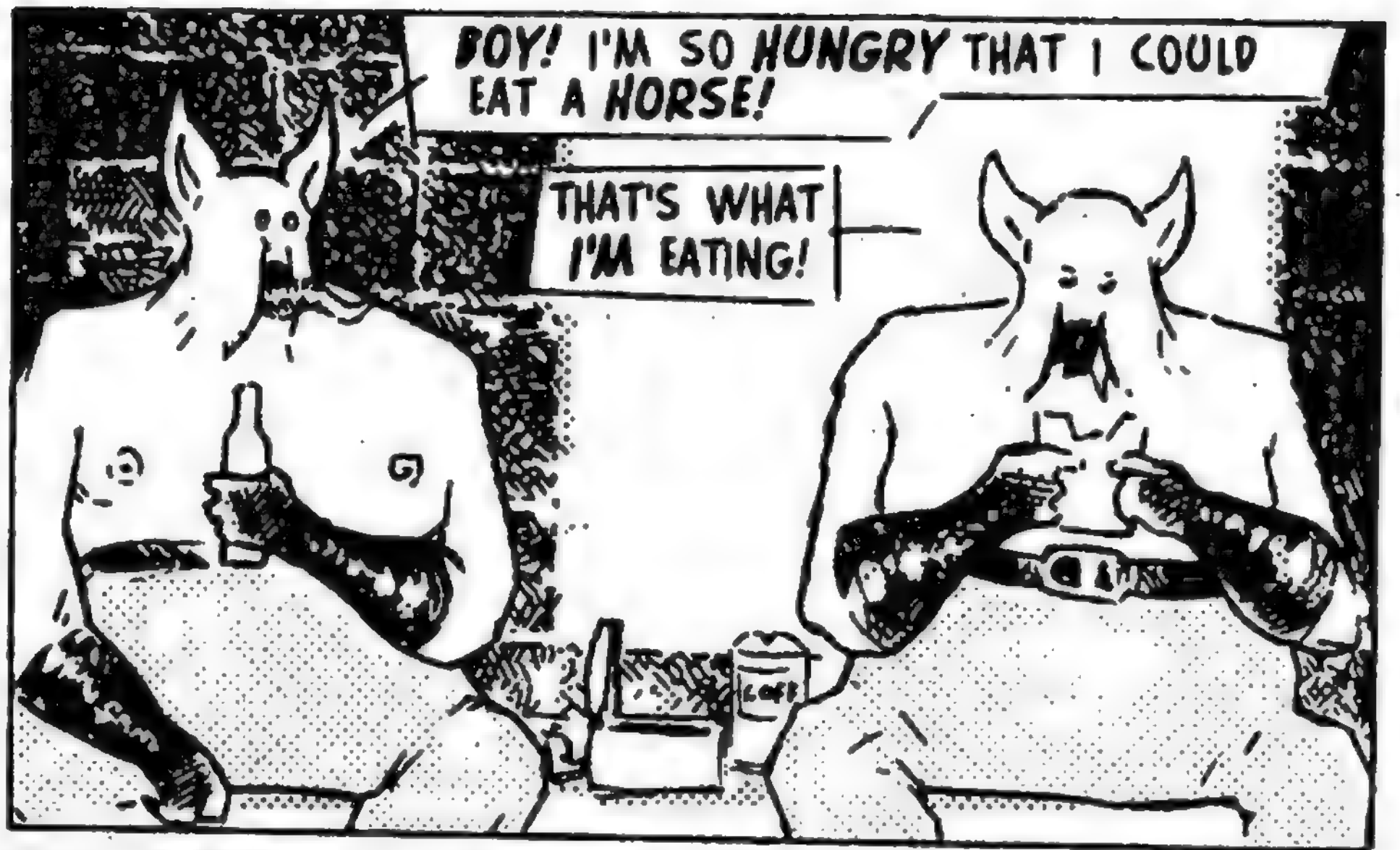
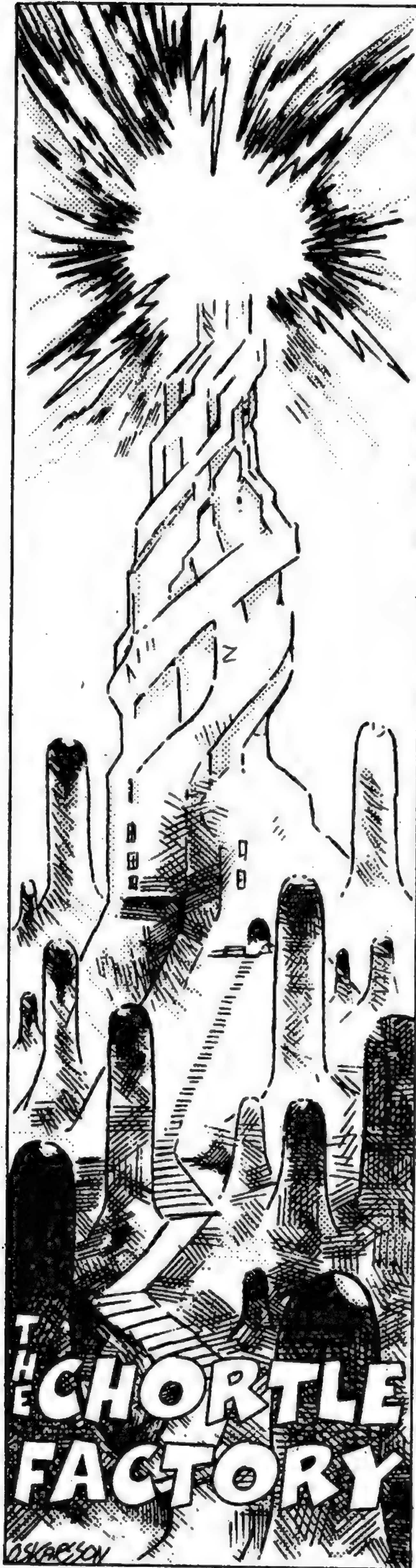
SADLY WITH THAT LITTLE
TEASER, I MUST CLUMSILY END
THIS PORTION OF OUR TALE.
UNTIL NEXT TIME, SO LONG
FROM

China Kate

FF

**FRISCO
FORCE**

BY THOM THURMAN



NOT THE **BRIGHTEST**
OF CREATURES!



SO FAR,
SO GOOD!

I'LL BE ON THE INSIDE
BEFORE THEY EVEN KNOW
WHAT HIT THEM!

PUT 'EM
UP!!!

HEPP HEPP HEPP



NO.

DROP THE GUN AND WALK
AWAY, OR ELSE...

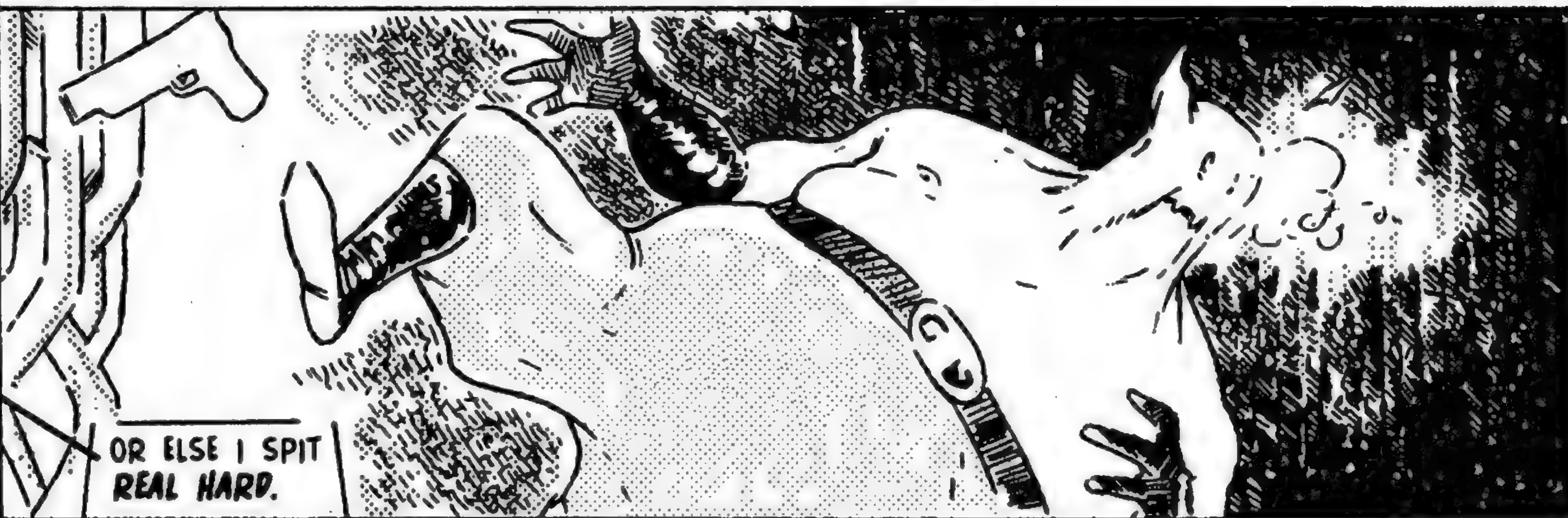
OR ELSE
WHAT!?

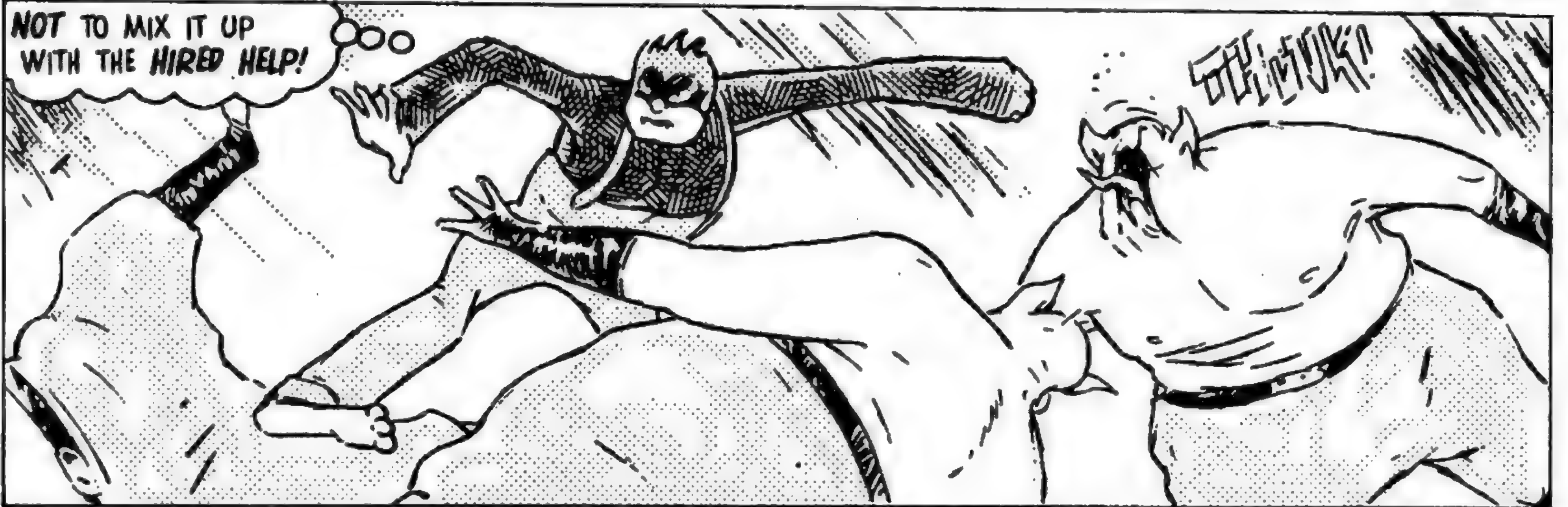
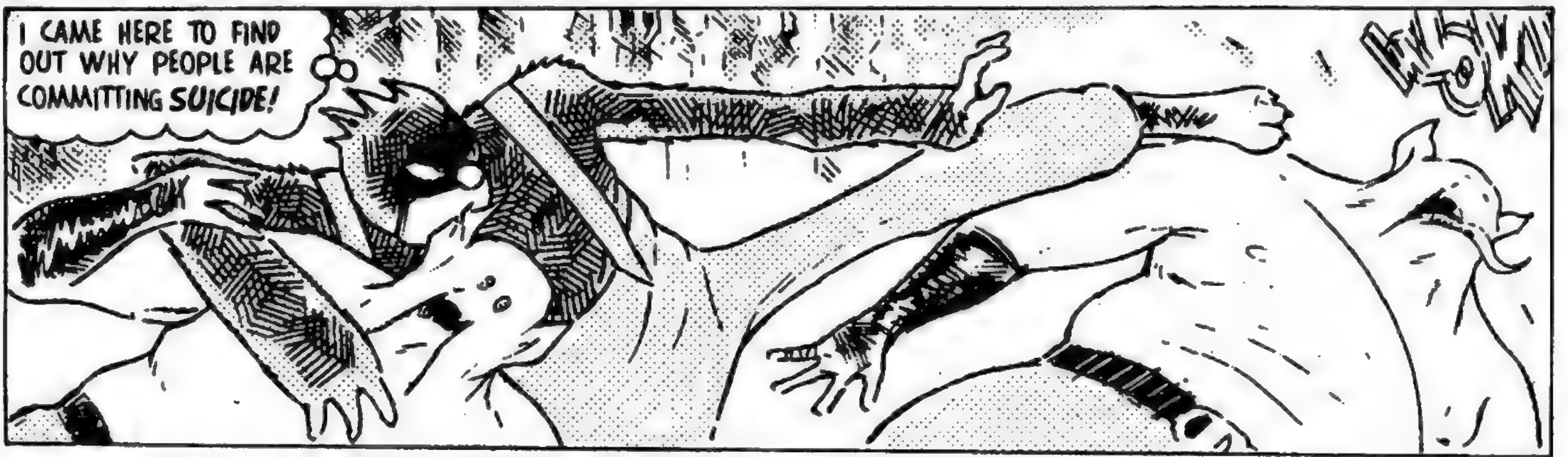


Pfu!



OR ELSE I SPIT
REAL HARD.



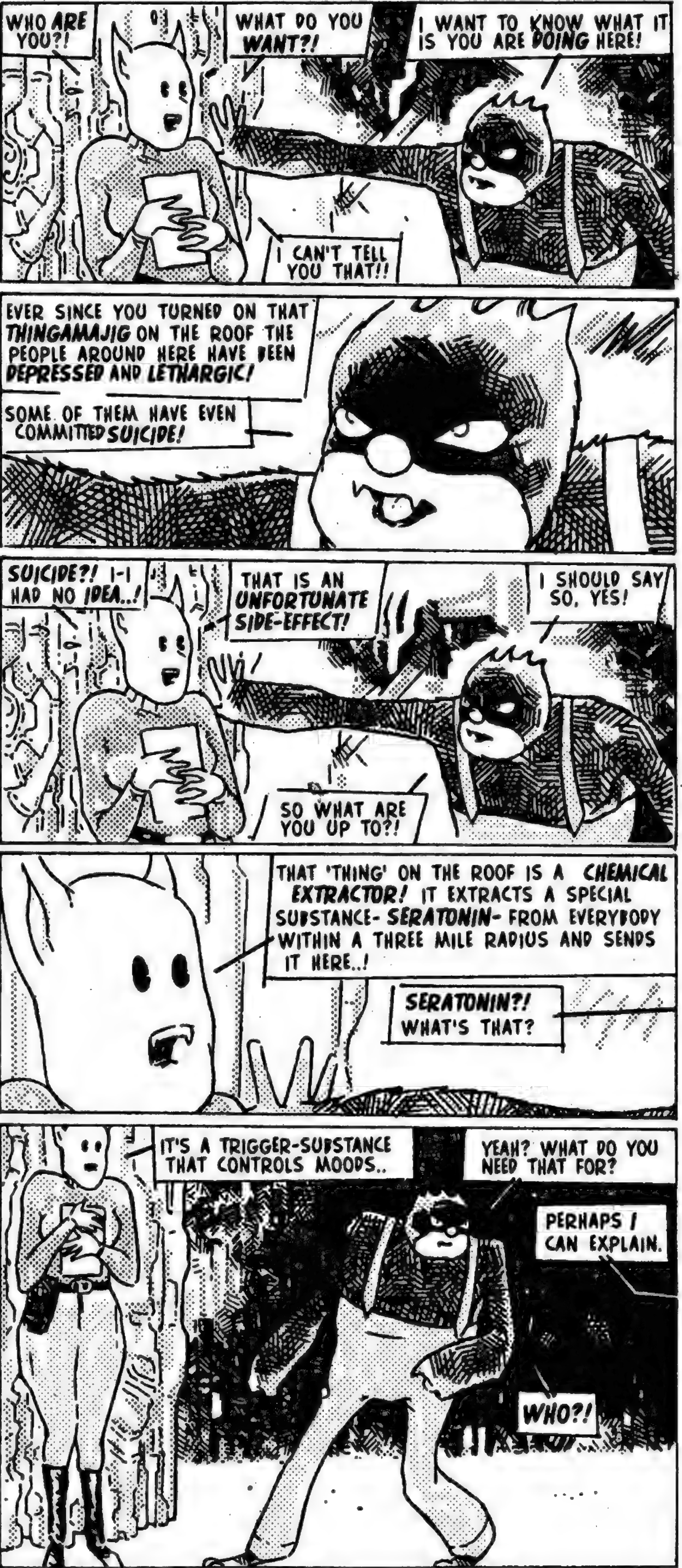




I NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THINGS. MAYBE A TECHNICIAN OR A SCIENTIST! AH! THIS LOOKS PROMISING!

HEY!

EEEP!!



WHO ARE YOU?!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU ARE DOING HERE!

I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT!!

EVER SINCE YOU TURNED ON THAT THINGAMAJIG ON THE ROOF THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE HAVE BEEN DEPRESSED AND LETHARGIC!

SOME OF THEM HAVE EVEN COMMITTED SUICIDE!

SUICIDE?! I-I HAD NO IDEA...!

THAT IS AN UNFORTUNATE SIDE-EFFECT!

I SHOULD SAY SO, YES!

SO WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?!

THAT 'THING' ON THE ROOF IS A CHEMICAL EXTRACTOR! IT EXTRACTS A SPECIAL SUBSTANCE- SERATONIN- FROM EVERYBODY WITHIN A THREE MILE RADIUS AND SENDS IT HERE..!

SERATONIN?! WHAT'S THAT?

IT'S A TRIGGER-SUBSTANCE THAT CONTROLS MOODS..

YEAH? WHAT DO YOU NEED THAT FOR?

PERHAPS I CAN EXPLAIN.

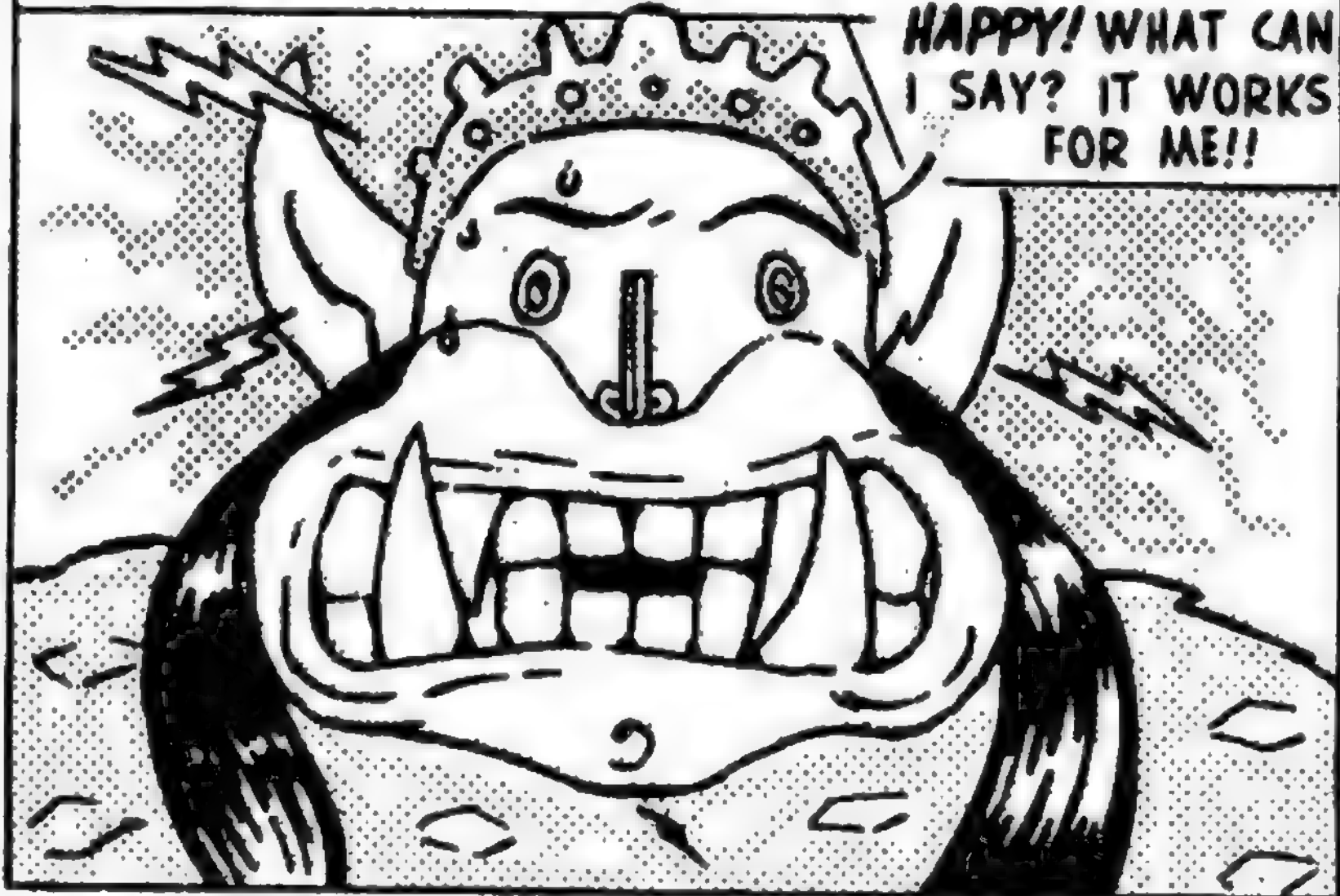
WHO?!

I AM BATAXOTL!
GOD OF GLOOM!

MY EMPLOYEES CALL ME
"THE CHORTLER"
(BEHIND MY BACK,
OF COURSE..)



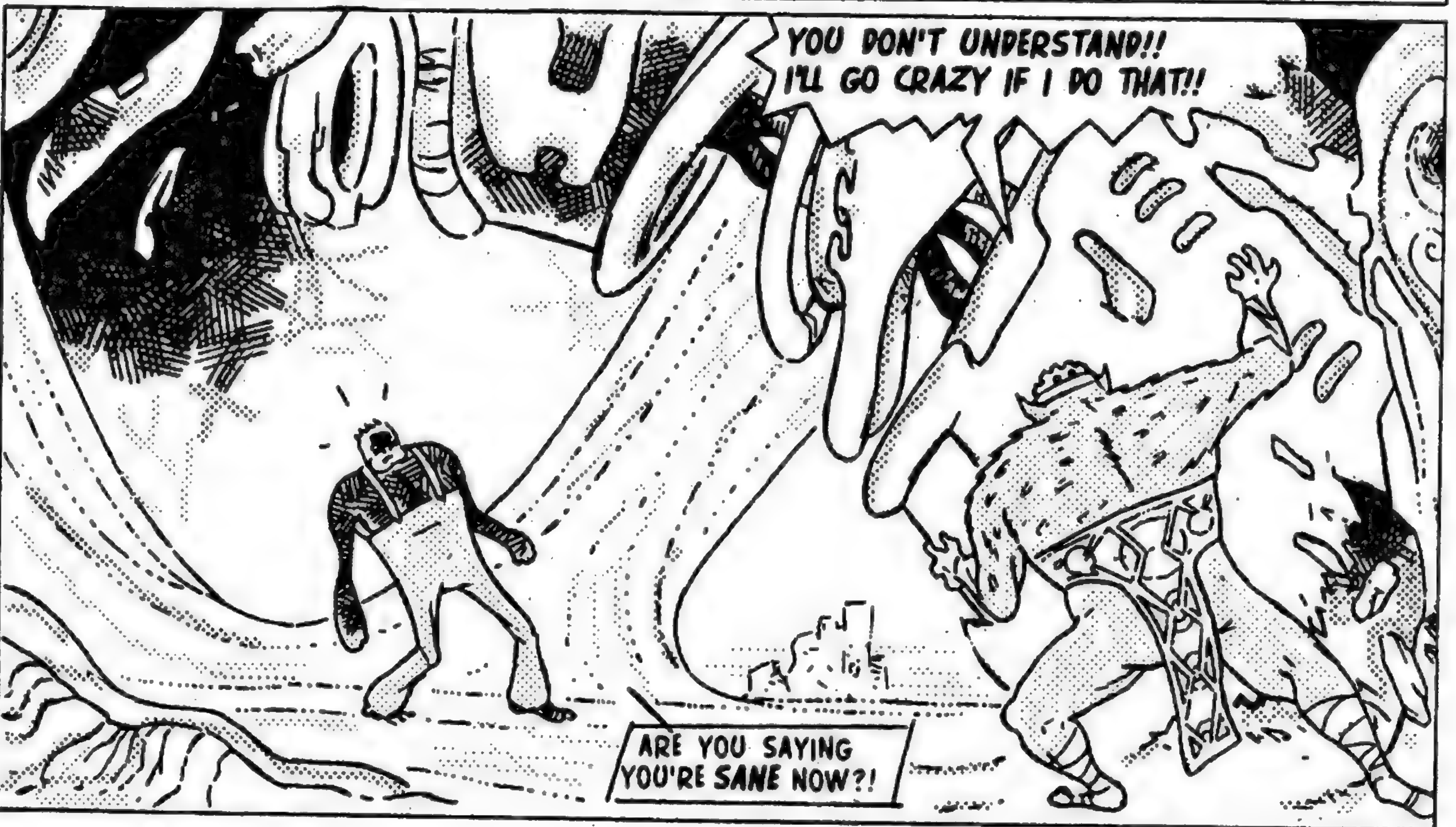
THE SERATONIN IS BEAMED DIRECTLY INTO MY BRAIN!
I NEED LARGE DOSES IF I AM TO BE CONTINUOUSLY
HAPPY! WHAT CAN
I SAY? IT WORKS
FOR ME!!



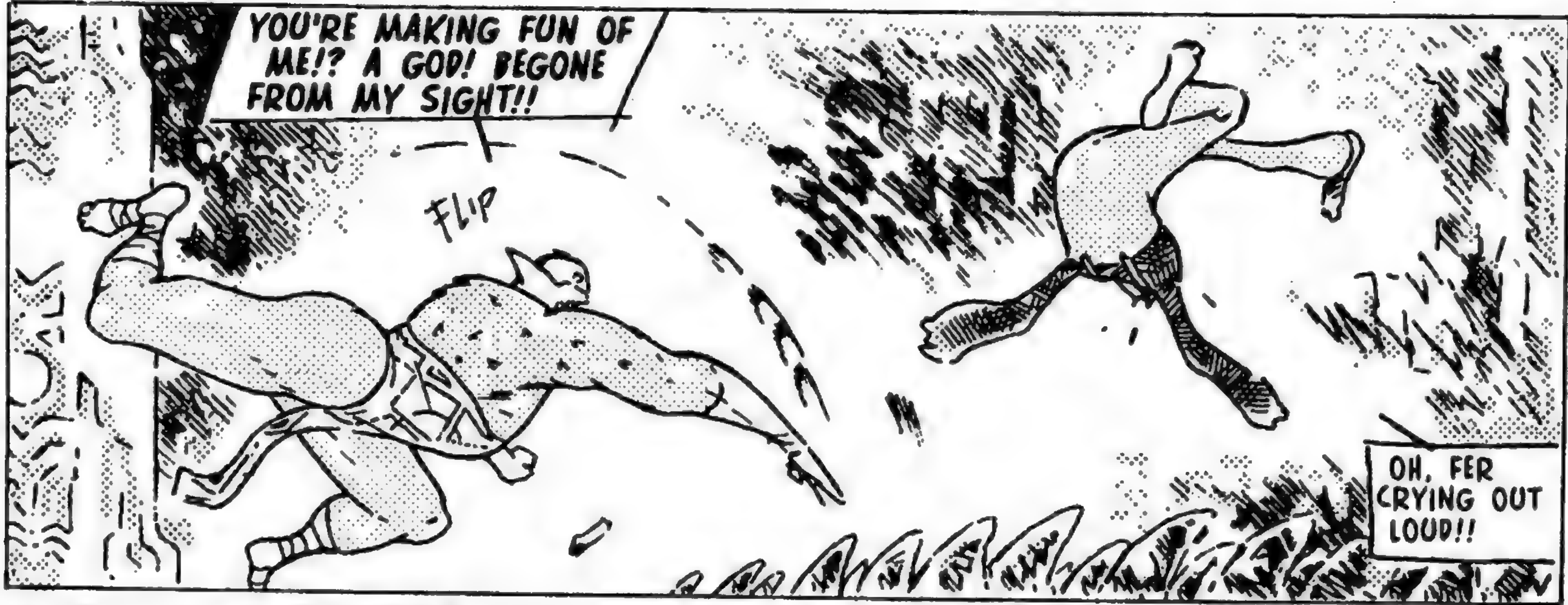
YES, BUT YOUR HAPPINESS MAKES
OTHER PEOPLE UNHAPPY! YOU'LL
HAVE TO TURN OFF YOUR MACHINE
AND BE HAPPY SOME OTHER WAY!!



YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!!
I'LL GO CRAZY IF I DO THAT!!



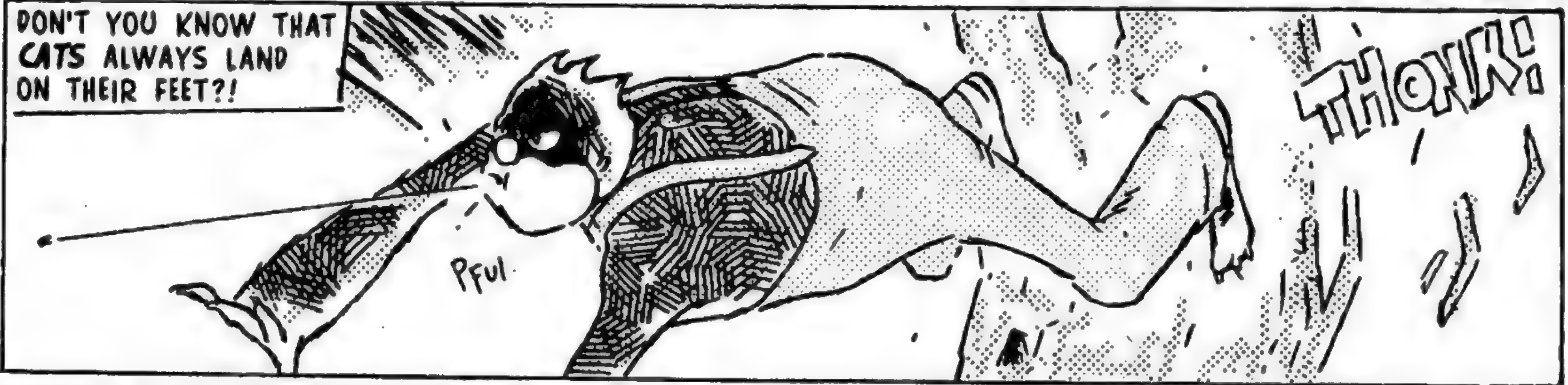
ARE YOU SAYING
YOU'RE SANE NOW?!



YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME!? A GOD! BEGONE FROM MY SIGHT!!

FLIP

OH, FER CRYING OUT LOUD!!



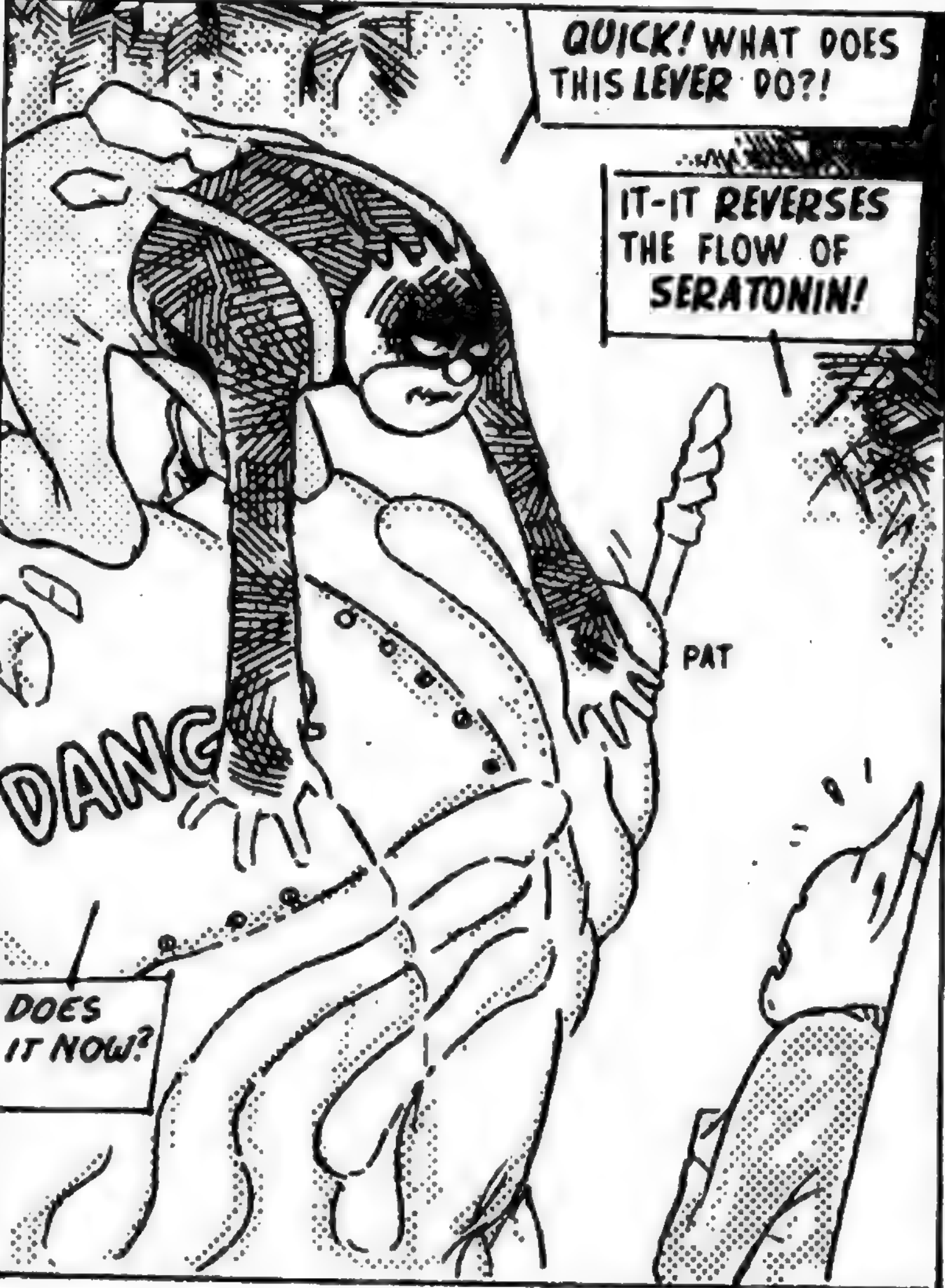
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT CATS ALWAYS LAND ON THEIR FEET?!

PFUI

THORNS



KLONK



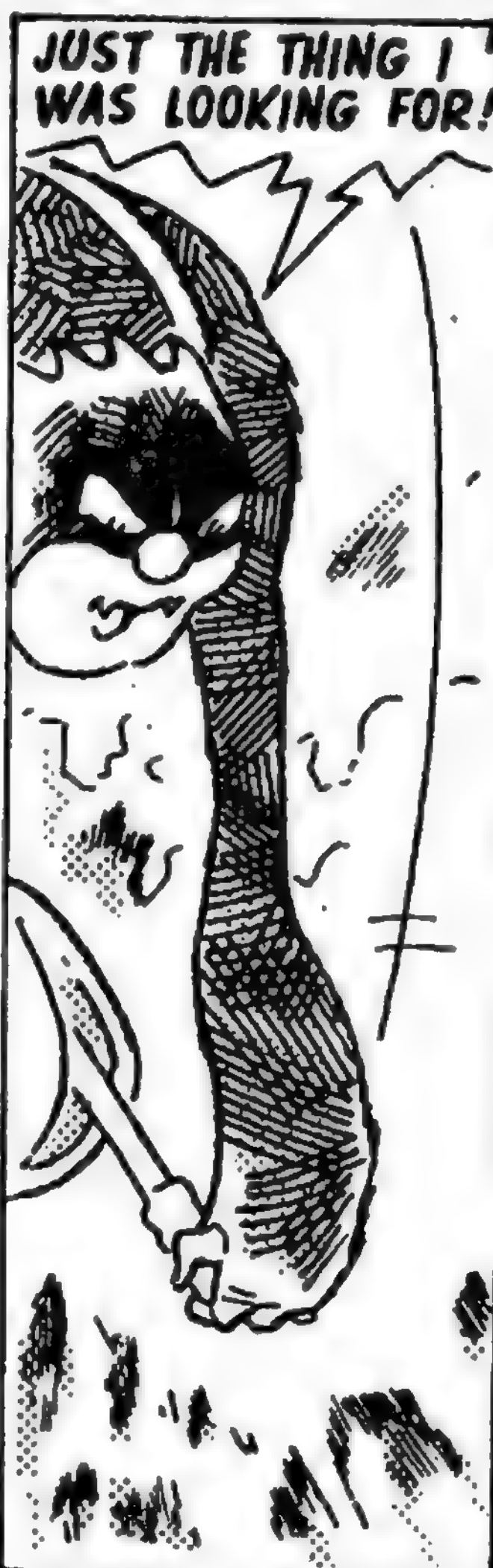
QUICK! WHAT DOES THIS LEVER DO?!

IT-IT REVERSES THE FLOW OF SERATONIN!

PAT

DANG

DOES IT NOW?



JUST THE THING I WAS LOOKING FOR!



THE MACHINE
WASN'T BUILT
FOR THIS!

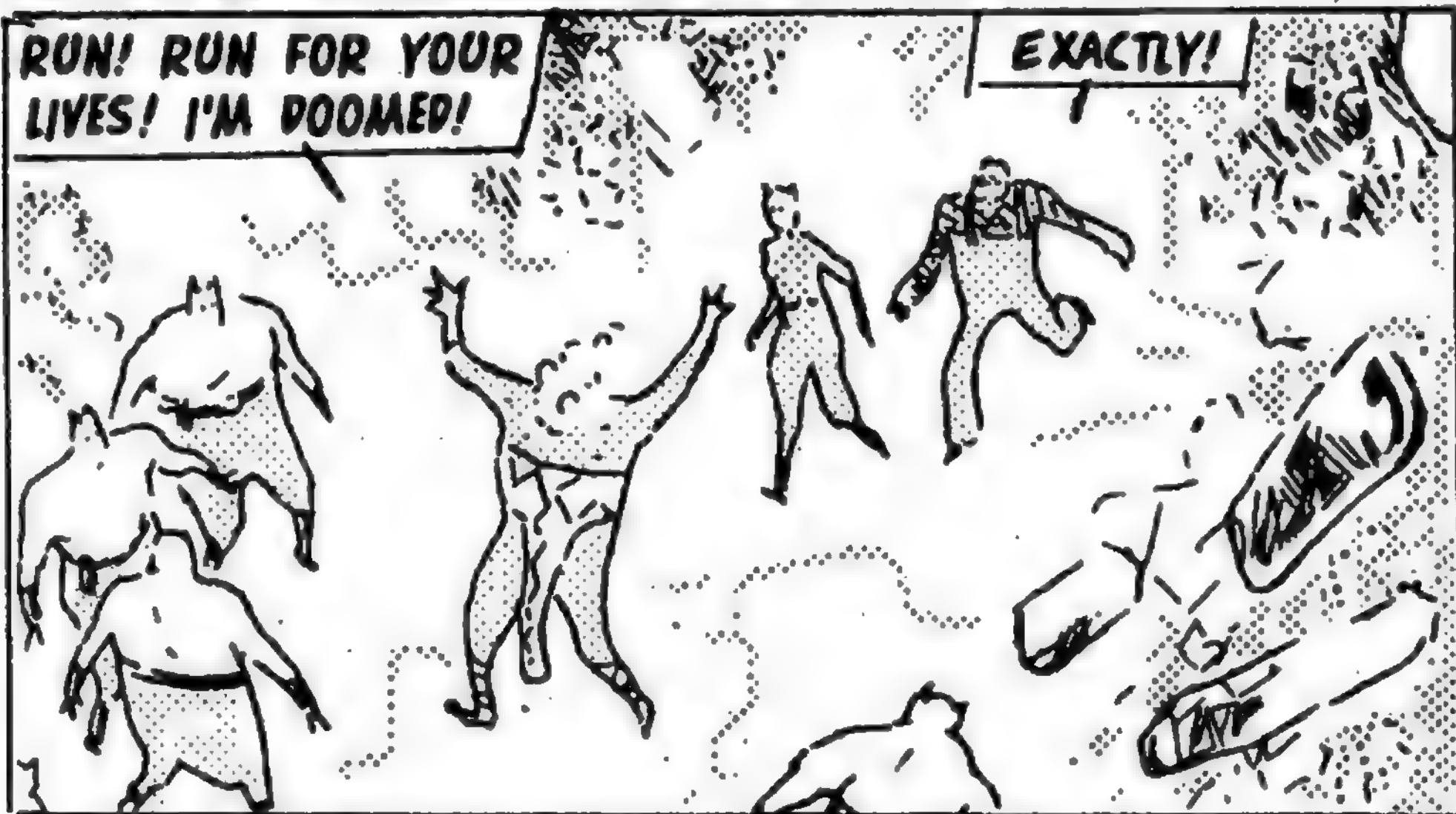
I MUST ADJUST THE FLOW OR THE
WHOLE BUILDING WILL EXPLODE!



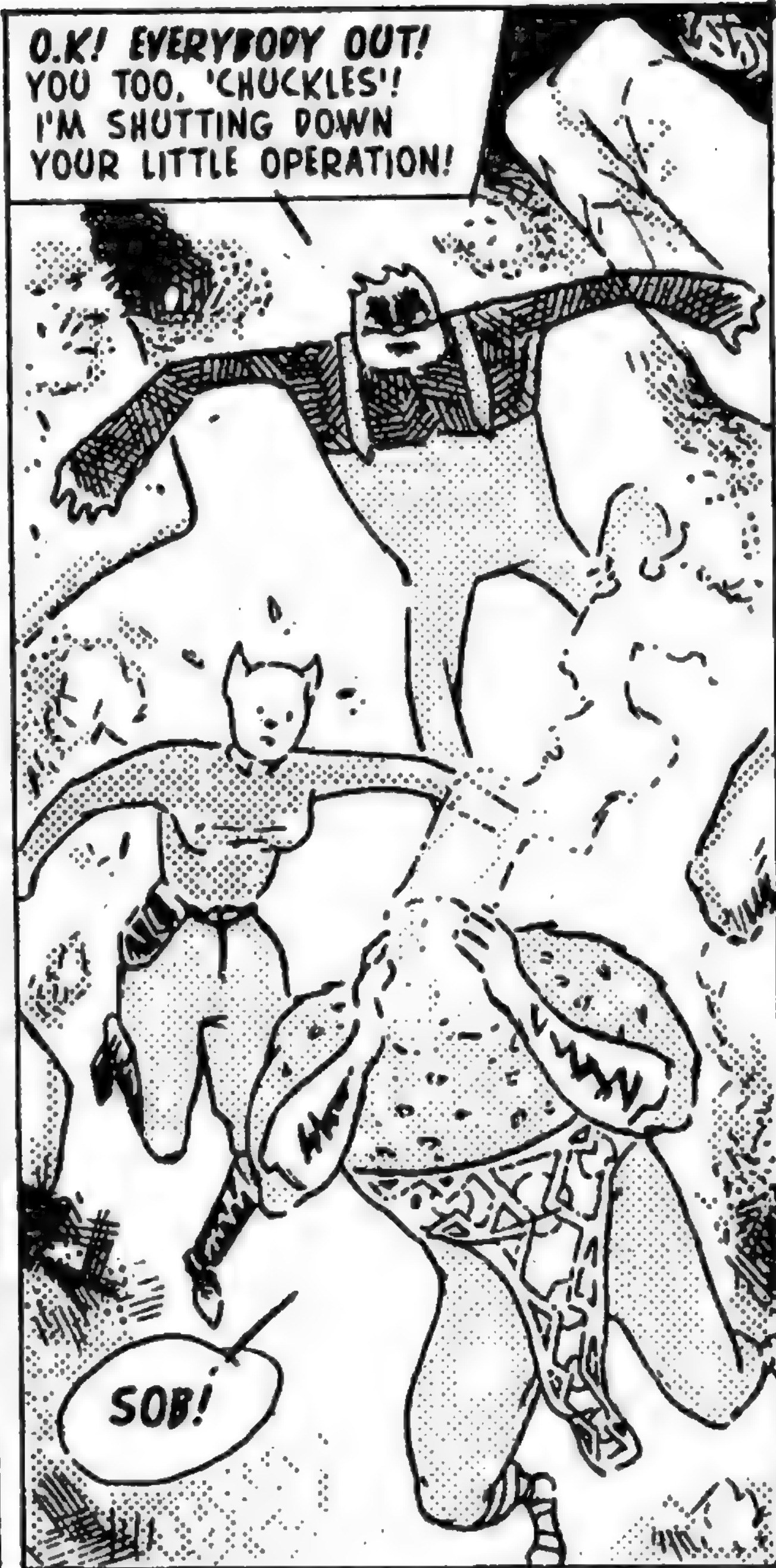
LET IT!

RUN! RUN FOR YOUR
LIVES! I'M DOOMED!

EXACTLY!



O.K! EVERYBODY OUT!
YOU TOO, 'CHUCKLES'!
I'M SHUTTING DOWN
YOUR LITTLE OPERATION!



SOB!

HEY! IT'S RAINING
SERATONIN! I FEEL
HAPPIER ALREADY!

DONT CRY, DARLING!
I-I LOVE YOU!

YOU DO?! YOU CAN'T
IMAGINE HOW DE-
PRESSED THAT MAKES
ME FEEL!...



Food!!

A MISTY TALE

STORY/ART: ~~Pratt~~ 45

MY, THEY REALLY
SPRUCED THIS PLACE
UP! DIDN'T THEY JUST
PUT IN THOSE FANS?

YEP! IT'S LOOKIN'
REALLY COOL. MM...
SMELL THAT FOOD!



THERE YA GO, FOLKS!
YA'LL ENJOY YOUR MEAL.

HMM...EVER NOTICE HOW
FOLKS ON T.V. HARDLY
EVER EAT THEIR FOOD?

HUH?

YEAH! THEY GO TO
RESTAURANTS, TALK
AND HARDLY EAT IT!

OH YES...LIKE THIS ONE
SHOW WHERE THIS GUY
ORDERS A BEER, DRINKS
ONE QUARTER OF IT,
TALKS TO HIS FRIEND
THEN LEAVES IT.

HMM...MIGHT HAVE BEEN
AN EPISODE OF "CHEERS"
OR SOMETHING. THE FOOD
AND DRINK IS A PROP...

REALISTICALLY, YOU'D
NEVER DO THAT. BUT WITH
ALL THOSE TAKES USING
THE FOOD CAN BE A PROBLEM.

Nomh!
Nomh
Nomh

OWR! 'SCUSE ME... WELL, I'D THINK THE FOOD AT LEAST WOULD BE EATEN LATER.

OFF-CAMERA, YEAH! HOPEFULLY. JUST SEEING THAT ON THE SCREEN SEEMS TOO WASTEFUL TO WATCH.



ANYWAY, HOW'RE THINGS AT THE SHOP, SWEETY?



OH, NEVER BETTER! I JUST HIRED SOME NEW HELP YESTERDAY. SHE'S SUCH A NICE GAL! SHE'S ACTUALLY GOT A...

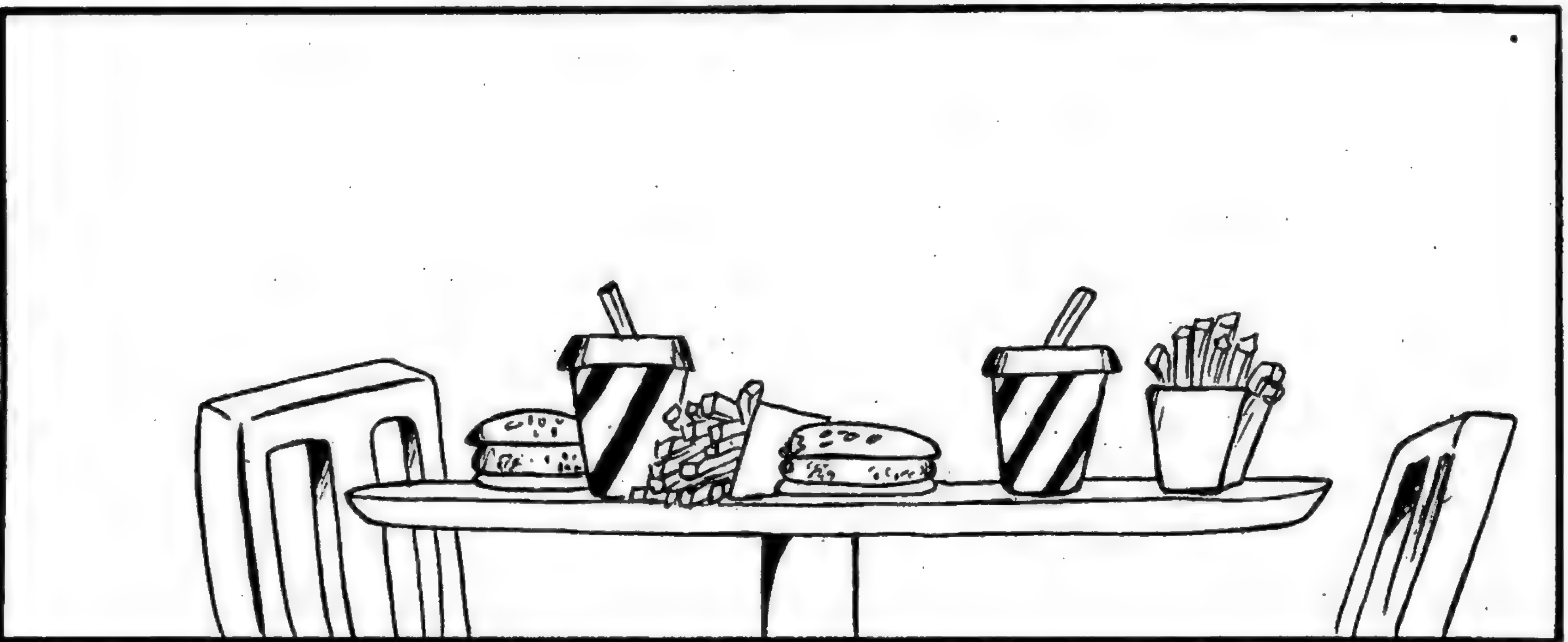


GASP! OH, MY! I ALMOST FORGOT.. IT'S TODAY!



HONEY, I GOTTA GO! SHE'LL BE WAITING FOR ME. I'M SO SORRY. YOU... YOU WANNA MAKE IT UP TONIGHT, SWEETY?







COMMUNIQUE

LETTERS TO FURRLOUGH

11765 West Ave. #117
San Antonio, TX 78216
radiocomix@aol.com

Dear Furrrough:

It's a dismal, rainy day here in New Jersey, and since I have nothing better to do, let's talk a while.

According to issue #72, "Stosstrupp" was knocked out of first place by "Full Knight Gear". I figured "Stosstrupp" wouldn't stay on top for very long- the story is over and once a story is done, readers lose interest (I still like it), but to be replaced by "Full Knight Gear"? Nothing has been heard since issue #65. We're left with one character slain (or at best, mortally wounded), another is blue (literally, not emotionally) and the third held hostage.

If any story was to replace "Stosstrupp" I thought for sure it would be "Heebas". Now there's a story that's off and running, but there are a few things I'd like to get clear.

From what I've read in previous episodes, Reeba wanted to look for her missing brother. I was hoping for a "flashback" episode to see what their relationship was like before he disappeared. Now, however, it seems like she's been sidetracked. Then there's the scene of Reeba with a vicious grin on her face, flicking her tail back and forth. Is that how she channels her new power and makes things happen (levitation, transportation, turning anthropomorphic characters into theriomorphic creatures)? Sounds to me like she might need to have this tail chopped off" too, if it turns out to be a weapon rather than a simple caudal appendage. Of course, while reading issue #71 I had to do a double-take when Marble exclaims, "They're all animals!" Talk about the pot calling the kettle black! That was a witty phrase and I had a good laugh over it.

I know this letter is a little longer than usual, but I had to make mention of a few things and maybe in future issues all my questions will be answered as the stories unfold.

Keep'em coming!

Thomas J. Johnson.

Carney's Point, NJ

Thanks for writing in, Thomas! (And for being such a loyal subscriber!) "Full Knight Gear" will return to Furrrough eventually- Michael Vega is working on the pages in his spare time, when he's not drawing *Morning Glory*, inking *Gremlin Trouble* or teaching comic art classes at his local community college. (Michael is a very busy guy!) Rest assured, as soon as he completes a new chapter, we will run it as soon as we possibly can! In regards to your "Heebas" questions, I'm sure the answers will be revealed as new chapters of the story are finished! I'm rather curious to see what kind of twists Scotty will pull out of his hat myself.--EW

Dear Furrrough:

This one is definitely going to be a little later than most of my letters. Lots been goin' on, a foot of snow with sheets of ice sandwiched in, for example.

I got your celebratory #71 Furrrough in the middle

of January. Sorry to hear of your cat dying, surprised to see my letters used as weapons against fellow readers. Thanks much.

Simple frontispiece; it'd better be militarily accurate.

Great to see more "Heebas" bouncing around the page. Also interested to see that Arsenault's fooling with furry theory. Does everyone else being pure animal (at the end of the story) mean that the story is being told simply by humans wearing animal masks? Seeing that Marble doesn't seem to make a distinction or link between herself and the observed mammals, perhaps she and Yebbo think themselves completely different. Confrontation of the immortal questions of furry perception are approaching. On the other hand, who could possibly give a damn?

I'm sorry, but even "Heebas" doesn't measure up to the humor of "The Otters" features. For having characters that don't seem to fit quite well in neither furry nor 'toon universes, this stuff is incredibly funny. Let's have more of it. Kudos to Norman Scott.

"Musa Stories"; I thought this gig was going to go somewhere. Quite a lotta build-up to not much climax. Charming children, though. Perhaps Egyptian myths aren't good comics subjects.

Getting tired of "Misty the Mouse"-- stick in the cast of "Clerks" and you've got a standard muddled "clueless"-clone 20-something comedy.

Sorry I can't write more, but I've not much time today. Can't wait to see what's next on the theoretical game table for "Heebas"; Scotty's packing in all sorts of fresh aspects. A hundred votes to "Otters", too.

Next, please!

Enzo Sica,

State College, PA

The Top Ten List had absolutely no change at all from the last issue of **Furrrough**! Remember, you can vote as often as you like for any story from the entire run of **Furrrough**! Send in your votes and be counted!

TOP TEN FURRLOUGH STORIES

- 1) HEEBAS by Scotty Arsenault
- 2) FULL KNIGHT GEAR by Michael Vega
- 3) THE OTTERS by Norman Scott
- 4) STOSSTRUPP by Ted Sheppard
- 5) TIGER ORANGE by Kurt Wilcken & Ken Lowe
- 6) NINJARA by Dean Clarrain & Chris Allan
- 7) ZAIBATSU TEARS by Richard Bartrop
- 8) TOBIAS WAH by Kevin I. Muranaka
- 9) MUSA STORIES by Nami Jarrett
- 10) HERE COMES A CANDLE by Mary Hanson-Roberts

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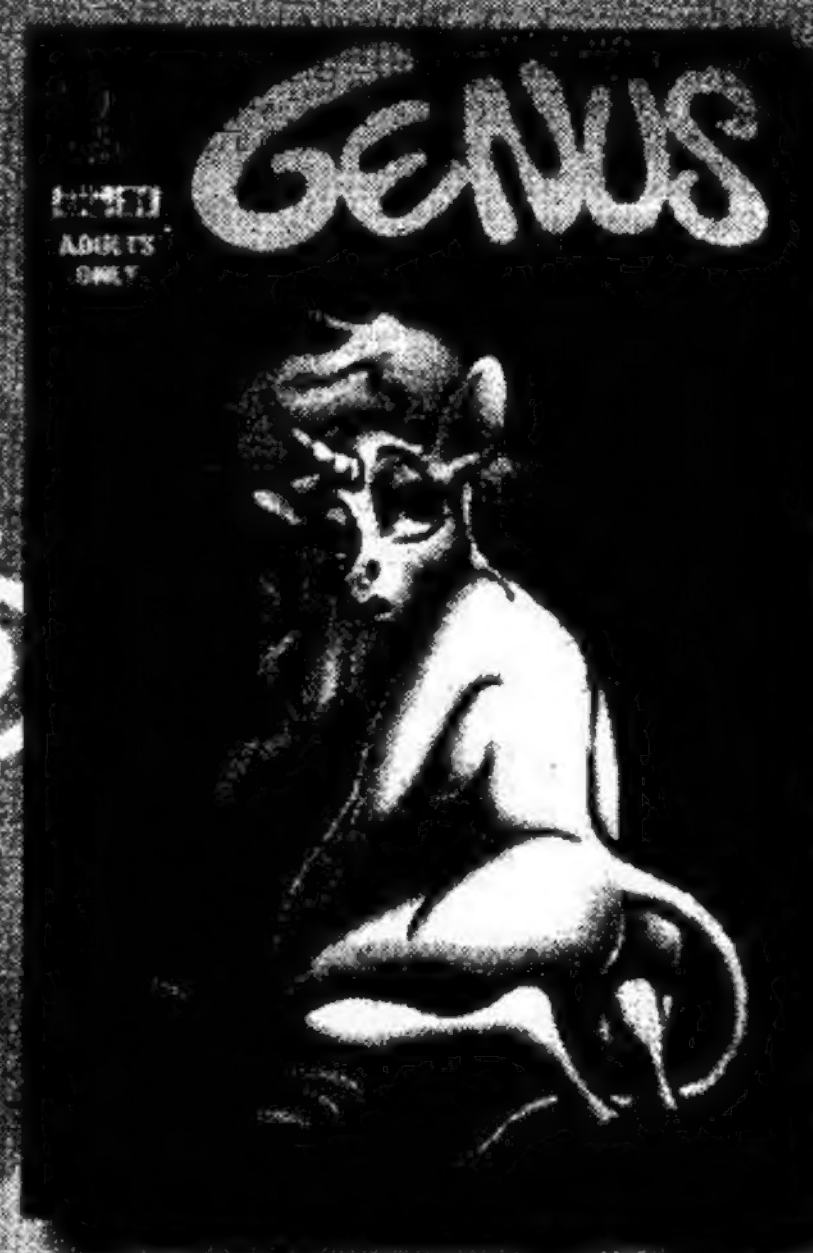
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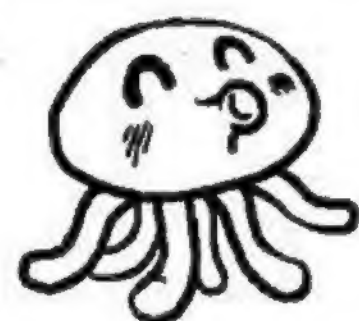
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